

Winter 2004

# The Classic, Winter 2004-2005

Public Relations

*Northwestern College - Orange City*

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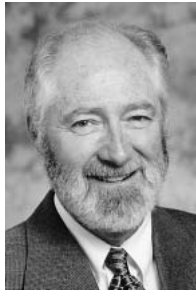
# CLASSIC

A publication for Northwestern College alumni & friends • Winter 2004-05



Piet Koene

2004 Iowa Professor of the Year



Dr. Bruce Murphy  
President

# Learning to think well

During the summer after I graduated from high school, I read a book unlike any I had read before. It was the story of a young Christian man from India who converted to Islam. I had read several stories of men and women who converted to the Christian faith but never one of someone who converted *from* it!

The book upset me. All through the reading, I expected a reconversion. When that didn't happen, I went immediately to talk with my dad. I was about to go off to college, but all of a sudden a part of me wasn't sure I wanted to. To be honest, I was afraid to think about things that might undermine the secure world I knew.

I don't think I will ever forget my dad's advice. After hearing me out, he said words to this effect:

"Bruce, never be afraid of thinking, just learn to think well."

"Thinking well." What does that mean?

At first glance, the answer seems clear enough: To think well means to think carefully—observe with keen attention to detail, be thorough in gathering information, and then draw conclusions cautiously, always making sure there is evidence to support each conclusion.

But we soon learn that thinking well isn't that simple. First of all, following the steps of logical reasoning outlined above takes a great deal of discipline and hard work. Many never get beyond that.

Even more disturbing is discovering that many who follow these steps scrupulously come to different conclusions about life's most important issues.

Recently, Di and I again watched *Shadowlands*, the beautiful film of C.S. Lewis' courtship and marriage to Joy Davidman. At one point in the film, as Joy is dying of cancer, Lewis says, "One of the uses of thought is to know when thought isn't enough." Exactly. Thinking well leads to the conclusion that more than thinking is needed if we are to live fully.

Do you remember the Old Testament story of Solomon? Solomon was a smart young man, even before his famous dream. The first chapters of 1 Kings describe a knowledgeable, shrewd leader. He also was surrounded by an experienced group of respected sages. But Solomon realized more was required if he was to sort out right from wrong and truth from error in the complex world of the ancient Middle East. So he prayed, and God granted his wish: Solomon became a very wise man.

But do we remember the nature of his wisdom? The definition for wisdom in this story, and throughout the Scriptures, is "a discerning heart"—the uncommon combination of critical analysis, compassion and child-like faith—deep feeling and clear thinking.

Here is the difference it makes: Solomon was able to draw conclusions that matter, decisions that made a difference for good in the world. Some of them were very practical and personal, as in the oft-told story of the two prostitutes both claiming the same baby as their own. Others had wider implications; we learn in chapter four of 1 Kings that he became an expert in matters of science and geo-politics. But whatever the decision, it was formed in that unique center of each of us where the artificial wall between mind and heart is broken down and where we are able to discern the truth of God.

In this *Classic* you will see several stories of faculty, staff and alumni who have learned to "think well." We thank God for them and for each of you who so faithfully support our mission.

*Bruce Murphy*

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"To think well means to think carefully—observe with keen attention to detail, be thorough in gathering information, and then draw conclusions cautiously, always making sure there is evidence to support each conclusion."  
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## classicpeople

## CLASSIC

Winter 2004-05 Vol. 76, No. 4

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The *Classic* is published quarterly—in March, June, October and December—for alumni and friends of Northwestern College. So named because it served what was then known as the Northwestern Classical Academy, the *Classic* was the school's first student newspaper, begun in 1891. It has been an alumni publication since 1930.

Send correspondence or address changes to the *Classic*, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041-1996.

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## Re-storied worship



*Jeff Barker's worship workshops incorporated Dr. Seuss' The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins to illustrate some of his principles of story-formed worship.*

Jeff Barker, theatre professor and director of worship at Trinity Reformed Church in Orange City, led three worship workshops on campus during September. The workshops were free and attended by about 100 students and community pastors, worship leaders and others interested in worship.

The workshops were part of a new effort by

Northwestern's theatre department to help prepare worship leaders who are trained more broadly in the arts. "Worship is broader than music or musical style," says Barker, who is seeking to restore story to worship.

The Rev. Jon Opgenorth '88, senior pastor of Orange City's Trinity Reformed Church, agrees. "Worship is the total experience—music,

drama, story, liturgy, offering, prayers, preaching, greeting, blessing—that people have from the moment they walk into church to the moment they walk out," he says.

Restoring story to worship could open the door for more artists than just musicians to participate in worship, Barker believes. Skilled theatre and visual artists can lead the congregation in

incorporating stories from the Bible and from church members' lives into the worship experience.

"Stories are so important in the life and worship of the church," says Sherri DeBoom, NWC's French instructor and worship planner for an Orange City church. She attended the workshops and explains, "The Bible is a storybook, and we are a story-formed people. As we plan worship, we need to look for the journey in the service. And art—such as visual images and stories—can be incorporated along with music."

The workshops included numerous examples from Barker's own experience as worship leader. Participants also were given suggestions and handouts for experimenting with more story-formed worship in their own churches.

Alumni who are interested in learning more about story-formed worship can request DVD recordings of the three workshops from Barker, [barker@nwc-iowa.edu](mailto:barker@nwc-iowa.edu) or 712-707-7093. The worship workshop DVDs are \$15, which covers duplicating and shipping costs.

The workshops will be offered again next fall, possibly in a format that would accommodate attendees from outside northwest Iowa. If you'd like to receive e-mail updates about the planning for next fall's workshops, contact Barker.

## Alumni return to campus to speak and learn

Among the many alumni who returned to campus for various reasons this fall were five whose visits included teaching, speaking and learning within the campus community.

Dan Addington '85 visited campus Aug. 30 and 31 to speak in chapel and interact with art students. He also brought an exhibition of his encaustic artwork, which hung in Te Paske Gallery through mid-October.

Owner and director of the Gwenda Jay/Addington Gallery in Chicago, Addington spoke in chapel and art classes about his journey as an artist and how he integrates his faith with his art. He also encouraged students to take advantage of opportunities to learn more about the visual arts and to seek ways to incorporate artistic images in worship and churches.

Satoru Itoh '88 is a chaplain at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo. He and the university's head chaplain visited Northwestern College and Duke Divinity School in early September as part of their research on moral education and character development of college students. Itoh and his colleague hope to take what they learned and incorporate stronger character development programming into the curriculum at their university.

The invocation at the dedication of the new Korver Field on Sept. 4 was given by the Rev. Clint Loveall '91. Loveall played for former Coach Larry Korver, after whom the field is named. Loveall and his family live in Spirit Lake, where he is pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

Kurt Dykstra and the Rev. Darrin Kimpson, both members of the 10-year reunion class of 1994, participated in campus worship during Homecoming weekend, Oct. 1-3. Dykstra, a Marquette University law graduate and attorney in Holland, Mich., spoke in chapel, encouraging students not to settle for less than they are capable of. He said more Northwestern students—who are receiving a wisdom education—need to consider graduate school and careers that will take them into arenas like law and politics.

Kimpson, lead pastor at Papio Creek Church in Papillion, Neb., spoke at the Homecoming worship service on Sunday for alumni, students and community members. Dressed in a sweat suit and carrying a high-jump bar, he read from I Corinthians 13 and challenged the congregation to aim high for the goal of loving well.

## Northwestern theatre retells *The Odyssey* as romantic comedy

A premiere retelling of Homer's *The Odyssey* was presented by Northwestern theatre Nov. 19-20 and Dec. 1-4 in the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.

Director Robert Hubbard, associate professor of theatre, collaborated with playwright T.M. Camp of Grand Rapids, Mich., to produce this stage version of *The Odyssey*, the legendary story of Odysseus' 20-year journey back from the Trojan War to his beloved Penelope.

Hubbard says audience members may be more familiar with contemporary retellings like the Coen brothers' film *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* or the novel *Cold Mountain*, which recently was

adapted for screen.

Hubbard says Camp's retelling emphasizes the story's comedy, and he describes it as "... playful, postmodern and full of puns. It's often categorized incorrectly as a tragedy," explains Hubbard, who, with Camp, found elements of a romantic comedy in Homer's epic.



*"Working on and evolving this original script has been very fun. Creating something that's never been created before—Northwestern theatre does a lot of this."*



Cast members for *The Odyssey* played a number of roles, wearing masks to travel back and forth in time to tell Odysseus' story. The production was very physically comic, with elaborate costumes and staging.

"Working on and evolving this original script has been very fun," says Hubbard. "Creating something that's never been creat-

ed before—Northwestern theatre does a lot of this."

*The Odyssey* featured original music, including a never-heard-before sirens' song, composed by Dr. Andrew Sauerwein, visiting assistant professor of music.

The opening night production was followed by a forum with the play's author.

### Let us know

What would you like to see in a future issue of the *Classic*?

E-mail [beeson@nwciova.edu](mailto:beeson@nwciova.edu) with suggestions.

## English instructor receives state teaching honor



Deborah Menning

Deborah Menning, instructor in English, received a Literacy Award from the Iowa Council of Teachers of English (ICTE) at the organization's annual meeting in Cedar Rapids in October.

Menning was among nine Literacy Award recipients for 2004, and the only college teacher. The award is presented to individuals for their "demonstrated contributions to language development and the learning of literacy in the state." Menning was nominated by Jim Davis, director of the Iowa Writing Project, and Barb Turnwall, Northwestern's English department chairperson.

Turnwall, who received a Literacy Award in 1999, says Menning took several Iowa Writing Project offerings, including Northwestern's Pedagogy Project,

and experimented with teaching strategies that focus on students as learners. The result, says Turnwall, is dynamic classes that excite and engage students.

Senior sociology major April Olivares describes Menning as an incredible teacher. "She is caring and passionate in life and in the classroom, in tune with her students' needs. She leaves room for the students to interact with one another in dialogue and to interact with her," says Olivares. "Everyone is both a learner and teacher in her classroom."

▼

*"She is caring and passionate in life and in the classroom, in tune with her students' needs. Everyone is both a learner and teacher in her classroom."*

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Menning has taught writing and literature classes at Northwestern for more than 10 years. She and her students have repeatedly given presentations at the ICTE fall conference, especially on the multi-genre paper.

## Band performs concerto premiere

Northwestern's Symphonic Band gave the world-premiere performance of a commissioned concerto, *The Life of King David*, at its Nov. 12 concert. The concerto featured Dr. Marc Wooldridge, associate professor of music, on marimba.

The first movement, *Shepherd Boy*, depicts David's humble upbringing, while the next movement, *Giant Slayer*, is a dramatic portrayal of David's battle with Goliath. The final movement is entitled *King of Judah* and portrays David's life after being crowned king. The composition uses exotic scales as a tribute to the traditions of the Middle Eastern culture it depicts.

The piece was composed by Russell Peterson, an instructor at Minnesota's Concordia College. It was made possible by funding from a variety of sources, including Northwestern's music department, the Lilly Grant, the Iowa Arts Council, Meet the Composer, and an anonymous donor.

## Northwestern is searching for the following positions:

### Administrators

Vice president for academic affairs  
Vice president for student development

### Faculty (tenure-track)

Art  
Social work  
Spanish  
Special education

Job descriptions and application details are posted at [www.nwciowa.edu/about/employment](http://www.nwciowa.edu/about/employment).

Northwestern seeks individuals who are Reformed and evangelical in theology and committed to the distinctives of a Christian liberal arts education.

*Northwestern College complies with federal and state regulations concerning nondiscrimination in employment. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.*



## NWC looks for ways to increase ethnic diversity and address racism

Once a month on a Wednesday evening, a group of Northwestern faculty and staff gathers to discuss a book they are reading about evangelical religion and racism. Another group is working to assess and improve the campus' ethnic diversity. And for the next three years, Dr. Brenda Salter-McNeil, an African-American woman called to the ministry of racial reconciliation, will work with the college to facilitate its ongoing efforts in this area.

The impetus for these activities comes from both President Bruce Murphy and members of the NWC community.

"This has been a mission of the school for a very long time," says Dr. Di Murphy, who co-chairs the newly formed Multi-Ethnic Resource Team. The 14-member committee—composed of faculty, students and staff—is conducting a campuswide self-

study to compile information on demographics, activities, policies and procedures, attitudes, and educational practices related to racial diversity.

"There are many people at Northwestern already committed to these goals," she says. "The team will identify the college's strengths and weaknesses so we can broaden our understanding and deepen our commitment to these issues."

A few years ago, after attending a seminar about how to enhance the success of minority students and faculty, President Murphy expanded staffing in the international and multicultural affairs office from two part-time to more than two full-time positions.

Northwestern's Lilly Grant is furthering those efforts. Along with Salter-McNeil's work at the college, the grant funded travel to Chicago for 12 faculty and

staff to participate in a multi-ethnic exchange.

"We were able to meet with colleagues of color for serious conversation about the experience of being a person of color in a primarily white educational institution," says Dr. Keith Anderson, director of the Lilly Grant. "It was a very powerful time for our group."

That experience—and conversations with Salter-McNeil—led to the formation of the reading group this fall. Prior to the Chicago workshop, participants read *Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America*.

"At the workshop, we talked about a whole range of issues addressing race and racism in an academic community," says Dr. Doug Carlson, associate dean for multicultural and off-campus programs. "Through the reading group, we want to

increase our awareness of these issues and our sensitivity, and we want that to filter through our community."

The experience of Jolynn Tonsfeldt, a member of the education faculty and another participant in the reading group, is one example of how that is happening. She's taking the group's conversations about *Divided by Faith* and sharing them with her students.

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"Through the reading group, we want to increase our awareness of these issues and our sensitivity, and we want that to filter through our community."  
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"It put a finger on a way I had been teaching," she says about the book. "I realized I'm in that white mode of teaching that's more individualistic—thinking if everyone fixed his or her little part, that would solve the problem of racism. We can work on ourselves, but we forget to work on the system, and it is systems that continue to oppress people."

"It's important we don't just focus on the content of the book, but that we personalize it," adds Tonsfeldt. "I'm hoping we'll look at our own systems here on campus, and then be willing to go out in the community."



A medieval celebration

### Northwestern College *Madrigal Dinners*

Jan. 20-22, 7 p.m.

Allen Black Box Theatre  
DeWitt Theatre Arts Center

Take a journey to Renaissance times with a delicious meal, festive music and entertainment by the Northwestern College Heritage Singers, and delightful fellowship.

Reserved tickets required; call the music department at 712-707-7062.



# State reaccredits teacher education program

Northwestern's teacher education program has been officially reaccredited by the Iowa Board of Education through 2009-10. Evaluators visited the campus last fall.

The Board of Education said NWC met all six of its standards: governance and resources, diversity, faculty performance and development, clinical practice, assessment of candidate knowledge, and assessment of the unit. "In many ways, this program serves as a model for standards- and performance-based practitioner preparation programs," the board

said in its report. "The institution is to be commended [for its] excellent program and contributions to the state of Iowa."

Reviewers praised Northwestern's education faculty, saying they provide highly individualized assistance to students and are respected across the campus and in area schools. They also cited as strengths the department's extensive field experience requirements, as well as the college's facilities, supportive administration and commitment to diversity. Evaluators noted that the education program's conceptual framework, "Teacher as Servant," is well-aligned with Northwestern's mission and pervasive throughout the department.

Last spring, the education program received continuing accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Only four other colleges' education programs in Iowa (Graceland, Luther, Morningside and Wartburg) are accredited by NCATE.

## Faculty/staff news

**Karen Acker**, art, had artwork chosen for inclusion in two fall juried exhibitions: the Will Creek Survey 2004 Exhibition at the Saville Gallery in Cumberland, Md., and the 49th annual International Open Exhibition by Northern California Arts in Carmichael.



**Dan Daily**, director of Ramaker Library, has been appointed by Gov. Tom Vilsack to the State Historical Records Advisory Board.

**Dr. Laird Edman**, psychology, and three professors at the University of Minnesota published an article, "Psychometric Analysis of the Minnesota Test of Critical Thinking" in *Psychological Reports*. The article is an

analysis of the first version of a test of critical thinking Edman and two of the co-authors are developing.

**Piet Koene**, Spanish, has met all the requirements to be listed as an approved interpreter on the official roster of Iowa court interpreters.

An article by **Dr. Ann Lundberg**, English, has been published in *ATQ*, a quarterly journal of 19th-century American literature and culture. Her essay, "The Ruins of a Bygone Geologic Empire": Clarence King and the Place of the Primitive in the Evolution of American Identity," is part of a special issue on adventure and exploration.

**Dr. Andrew Sauerwein**, music, co-directed "Forging Links," a conference for church members, worship

leaders, musicians and teachers held in Durham, N.C., in September. He gave a presentation on modeling relationships and wrote a choral setting of Psalm 29 that was performed at the conference.

**Greg Scheer**, music, spoke on worship composition at the "Forging Links" conference. As part of the event, a piece he composed for string quartet, 6, was performed at Duke University.

**Dr. Ed Starkenburg**, education, presented a session on using research-based strategies to teach math at the Heartland Educators' Convention in Sioux Center in October.

**Lila Sybesma**, education, also spoke at the Heartland Educators' Convention. She discussed reading strategies teachers can use to increase

students' grasp of content material.

**Dr. Alexandar Tokarev**, business and economics, won a scholarship to cover his participation in a Ronald Coase Institute workshop on institutional analysis and the annual meeting of the International Society for New Institutional Economics, held in Tucson, Ariz., this fall. Tokarev presented a paper on the link between church and state institutions.

**Dr. Marc Wooldridge**, music, performed percussion at November concerts at Western Washington University and Coe College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. At the latter event, he also presented a lecture on music for percussion, film and visual art.

## Facevalue

# Diane Westenberg

*Van Peursem Hall housekeeper since 1991, mother, grandma, knitter, closet public speaker*

### Describe yourself in three words.

Optimistic, light-hearted, content. WYSIWYG (what you see is what you get).

### What do you dream of doing?

I finally got up the nerve last year to ask for summers off from this job, so I spent a lot more time with my parents. The older I get, the more I appreciate older people. We went through photo albums, documents and all kinds of things. There are a lot of other people I want to do that with.

### Describe NWC.

Opportunity, greenhouse atmosphere—not just for students, but for me too. I've gotten to do so many things because I work here: speaking in chapel, serving as emcee at the spring appreciation banquet. That's led to speaking opportunities at my church.

### What is your unique perspective on NWC?

I sometimes call myself Northwestern College's bartender because bartenders do a lot of listening. Students, faculty and staff all feel free to say things to me that they might not say to someone else. I usually get all sides of a story.

### What one thing would you change about NWC?

I wish people would give others the benefit of the doubt more often.

### Who is your favorite person?

My husband—because it's like I can't be me without him. He's the most unselfish person I've ever come across.

### What do you value?

Other than the fact that I always wanted to be a mom, there was nothing else that interested me enough to put

my energy toward one focus. Being a parent has always been my first love. It's almost finished since the last one is a junior in college and getting married next summer. But I was reminded by my mother recently that you never stop being a parent.

### I'd just like to say ...

I've had a very blessed life. My parents have been married almost 60 years, and

I had a wonderful childhood. My maternal grandmother lived to be 101; she had over 250 descendents. She prayed for me every day, and I didn't realize how huge that was until she was gone. She lived through things I won't ever have to live through, but she kept her faith and was more of an example to me than I knew at the time. I want to be that person for my grandchildren.



Diane Westenberg

## Quickread

# Book invites readers to encounter Christ

## *Keeping Company With Jesus: Reflections on Gospel Stories*

by Jackie Smallbones Augsburg Fortress Publishers

In just over 100 pages and seven chapters, Northwestern religion professor Dr. Jackie Smallbones explores familiar Gospel stories like the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11), the healing of the 10 lepers (Luke 17:11-19) and the woman who touches Jesus' garment for healing (Mark 5:24-34).

A native of South Africa and an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America, Smallbones describes her first book as a tool to help others explore these Gospel stories and others more closely. *Classic* recently visited with Smallbones about *Keeping Company With Jesus*.

**Classic:** Where did the idea for this book come from?

**Smallbones:** When I was unemployed, I was going through the Gospel stories for my morning devotions. Every now and then I'd have all these thoughts about one

of the stories I read. So I'd write them down and send them off to a seminary friend. She'd say, "Wow," which I enjoyed hearing, so I got into the habit of doing that when a Gospel story intrigued me. Every chapter is just my personal response to Gospel stories that also draws on my years of teaching and studying the Bible.

**Classic:** Why did you choose the particular Gospel stories you did?

**Smallbones:** Most of them deal with personal issues I was struggling with at the time. I was unemployed for 20 months, so one came out of that struggle. Another came out of my struggle with breast cancer. I was drawn to the story of the woman who touched Jesus' garment. I lay in my bed after surgery, and I thought, "Ah hah. I know why she touched Jesus' garments. She was tired of having doctors and nurses take away her privacy"—which

was my issue during my stay in the hospital.

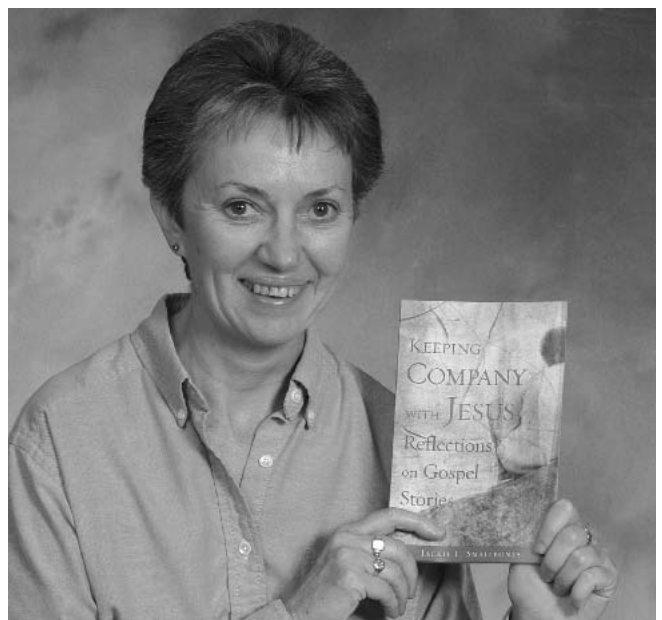
Others are stories I was just intrigued with, like the woman caught in adultery. I have a heart for women's issues, and that story interested me. I started doing the research and was totally dissatisfied with everything I read because everyone asks, "What did Jesus write?"

One day I read it again and thought, "That's the wrong question. The question is: For whom did he write?" That new question led to a published article that eventually became part of this book.

**Classic:** What kind of reader is this book for?

**Smallbones:** I tried to make the stories accessible to people who want good biblical understanding but are also asking, "How do I relate this to my life?" It's not a text for a course on Gospels; I want it to be accessible to anyone—to bring people to the point of an encounter with Jesus, and then how do you respond in that encounter.

I think it would be a good book for either individual devotional time or a group Bible study. It's formatted well for a Bible study because there are reflection



Religion professor Jackie Smallbones' first book aims to bring readers to the point of an encounter with Christ.



questions after each chapter.

**Classic:** What category of reading does it fall into?

**Smallbones:** Probably spiritual reading. That's what I was doing as I read the Gospel stories, and then I expanded on that by reading research on the stories as well. I'm not as concerned to come up with a correct biblical interpretation as I am to ask questions that lead to a revelation. Scripture is a mir-

ror. I want my book to help others see themselves in that mirror.

**Classic:** What do you hope readers think of the book?

**Smallbones:** I just hope someone reads it and thinks, "Thank you; that helped me."

**Classic:** Have you always dreamed of being a published author?

**Smallbones:** Two things I always wanted to do: teach

and write. But I didn't want to teach school; I wanted to teach Bible—which women just didn't do when I was growing up.

**Classic:** What's next?

**Smallbones:** I'm thinking of doing another book like this, but with Old Testament stories. Also, my oldest brother lives in Kenya and works in children's ministry. He's working on cutting-edge theology for the children of Africa, where almost every

child is infected or affected by HIV-AIDS. African children are asking tough, spiritual questions. How do you do children's ministry in that environment? I'm trying to think of a way to get more involved in what he's doing.

Keeping Company with Jesus is available at the Northwestern College Bookstore for \$9.99. It also is available for the same price at most online bookstores, including amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.

## Bookreview

# Listening anew

by Joan Zwagerman Curbow '85

I recently started a book that was selling well in some Christian circles, but abandoned it after the sixth chapter. While the book serves a purpose for those new to the faith, I wanted more substance and fewer easy answers.

Such a book is *Keeping Company With Jesus*. It breaches a gap for those who desire solid exegesis without wading through scholarly jargon, and it invites readers to listen anew to Gospel stories they have heard all their lives.

Part of the trouble with hearing the "old, old story" is that we become accustomed to its depths, complexities and mysteries, and if we have been raised not to question Scripture, we simply take things at face value and run the risk of missing its truth and power.

Smallbones will have none of it. A modern-day Jacob, she wrestles with the text, with all its elisions and opacity, unwilling to let go, until she has received a blessing. The result of that wrestling is this book, and she shares the attendant blessings in page after page of careful attention to the text of seven Gospel stories.

Where most of us might see a long string of Christ's miraculous healings and frenetic preaching, she dispels this distortion, revealing a tough, mysterious and sometimes rude Christ, a Christ whose radical notions of freedom and love would threaten any respectable middle-class group of churchgoers with unsettling results.

Also, in each Gospel account, Smallbones reveals a Christ who meets each person individually. There is neither a standard call from Jesus nor a standard response from the people he encounters. In other words, Jesus is no plaster saint, no cardboard character programmed to spread peace and love like a benign security blanket.

As one progresses through the book, it becomes clear that Smallbones has spent a great deal of time in study and reflection trying to parse out this man Jesus. She has made herself vulnerable, asking how she would respond in the same situation. If Jesus likened her to a dog, would she fight back like the woman in Matthew 15, or would she slink off? But there is a still more dangerous question: Why does Jesus, Prince of Peace, behave that way?

Why is he more concerned with writing on the ground than in responding to the adulterous woman and her accusers? Why does he go to a sickbed on one occasion but refuse in another? And why does he give all these people complete freedom—freedom to be ungrateful, freedom to expose him to more trouble and derision?

That's the crux of Smallbones' book: How can we know someone unless we spend time with him? That's the invitation Jesus extends, and that invitation is explored to great effect in *Keeping Company With Jesus*.

If your faith seeks what is known and comfortable, you may wish to bypass this book. But if you want to encounter Jesus as if for the first time, this book will not disappoint you.

Joan Zwagerman Curbow lives in Alta, Iowa. She has had articles published in *Perspectives: A Journal of Reformed Thought*, the *Des Moines Register*, and *Mars Hill Review*.

# Staying the Course

*Dan Johnston learns perseverance and service from Northwestern's Parents of the Year*

by Anita Cirulis

When Dan Johnston decided he wanted to attend Northwestern and play football in Iowa—1,800 miles from his hometown of San Luis Obispo, Calif.—his parents gave him their blessing. When he found himself sitting on the bench for most of his first three years, his father helped him learn perseverance. When a teammate's injury made Johnston the starting quarterback on the Raiders' nationally ranked team, his mother spent each game day fasting and praying for him.

Dennis and Karee Johnston's support and example have played a major role in their son's life. It also earned them Northwestern's Parents of the Year award for 2004.

Northwestern recognized the Johnstons on campus during Parents Weekend in November.

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*"For the past three years, he's been there to remind me of my role as a Christian on the team and as a teammate."*  
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*For 21 years, Dan Johnston has seen the commitment to Christ and servant's attitude of his parents, Dennis and Karee Johnston. In November, he watched as they were honored as Northwestern's Parents of the Year, thanks to a nomination letter he wrote on their behalf.*

Born and raised in California, the couple met at church and married in 1982. Dennis is the buildings and grounds manager for Grace Church in San Luis Obispo; Karee works in food service at San Luis Obispo High School. In addition to Dan, the Johnstons are the parents of three daughters: Jewel, 15; Amanda, 14; and Katee, 12.

In a letter nominating his parents for the award, Dan wrote of their service and leadership. Each week, the Johnston family conducts a worship service at a local retirement home. Karee teaches Sunday school for

seventh grade girls, and the couple just started a prayer and Bible study group for parents whose sons and daughters are in their church's youth program.

Dan describes his father as a hard-working man of God who is honest about his imperfections. His dad helped him stick with football even when he wasn't getting much playing time.

"For the past three years, he's been there to remind me of my role as a Christian on the team and as a teammate," Dan says. "He's shown me how that reflects the body of Christ and your role in the

church—where the guy who sets up the chairs is just as important as the speaker in the limelight."

"It was a matter of putting things in an eternal perspective," Dennis says. "When it comes down to it, football is still a game. There were a lot of life lessons there as far as perseverance and sticking with something you started. At times Dan felt like quitting, but he didn't—for the team and the guys. Learning to deal with disappointment has made him stronger in his faith."

Karee, whom Dan calls a selfless servant, still can't

bring herself to watch her son play football.

"You sit by people, and they're going, 'Stick the quarterback!'" she says. "And I'm thinking, 'That's my son!'" For her, prayer has become an antidote for worrying about his safety and ability to do well for the sake of his team.

Football isn't the extent of Dan's involvement at Northwestern. He traveled to Amsterdam on a Spring Service Project and was chosen as one of the student leaders for the same trip this spring. He also spent 11 weeks in Ghana in 2003 through the college's Summer

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*"They have shown me  
 how to be a man of my  
 word and to serve with-  
 out need or desire to  
 receive back."*  
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of Service program and served with other football players in the Czech Republic earlier that summer. A biology major, he plans to attend graduate school to become a physician's assistant, with the intention of eventually serving as a medical missionary.

The Johnstons have seen their son gain confidence and grow in his faith at Northwestern.

"He was a great young man, but now he's a mature man of God," his mother says.

His father agrees. "I'm proud of his sports [accomplishments], but I'm proud of his character more than anything—of his willingness to go and do," Dennis says.

Dan is equally as proud of his parents.

"They have shown me how to be a man of my word, to serve without need or desire to receive back, to love one another as Christ loved the church, and to remain faithful," he says.

## Campuscalendar

### January

#### Admissions

17 Visitation day, 9 a.m., DeWitt Theatre Arts Center

#### Alumni/supporters

22 Tower Society dinner, TBA, Vermeer Dining Room

#### Fine arts

14-Feb. 17 Art exhibit, sculpture by Dewane Hughes, art professor at Missouri Southern State University, Te Paske Gallery, Korver Visual Arts Center. Opening reception: Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.  
 20-22 Madrigal dinners (reserved tickets required), 7 p.m., Allen Theatre, DeWitt Theatre Arts Center  
 28 Storm King Brass concert, 7:30 p.m., Christ Chapel

### February

#### Activities

4-6 Sibling Weekend  
 5 Kids' Karnival, 9 a.m.-12 noon, Rowenhorst Student Center

#### Admissions

4 Visitation day, 9 a.m., DeWitt Theatre Arts Center  
 21 Visitation day, 9 a.m., DeWitt Theatre Arts Center  
 24 Norman Vincent Peale Scholarship Day, 8:30 a.m., Bultman Center  
 28 Norman Vincent Peale Scholarship Day, 8:30 a.m., Bultman Center

#### Alumni/supporters

10-12 National Alumni Board meeting  
 12 Gala Auction, 6 p.m., Rowenhorst Student Center Mini-Gym

#### Fine arts

19 Ballroom dance, 9 p.m., Rowenhorst Student Center  
 21-April 1 Senior art exhibits, Te Paske Gallery, Korver Visual Arts Center  
 22 Student recital: Tiffany De Vries (saxophone), Ruthie Umthun (oboe), 7:30 p.m., Christ Chapel  
 23-26 *Copenhagen*, 7:30 p.m., Allen Theatre, DeWitt Theatre Arts Center  
 24 U.S. Air Force Heartland of America Band concert, 7:30 p.m., Christ Chapel  
 27 Student recital: Monica Mitzel (flute), 3 p.m., Christ Chapel

### March

#### Admissions

18 Visitation day, 9 a.m., DeWitt Theatre Arts Center

#### Alumni/supporters

29 Pastors and Spouses Conference, 8 a.m., Bogaard Theatre

#### Fine arts

5-15 Symphonic Band tour (Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan)  
 5-15 Theatre team tour (New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts)  
 18 Symphonic Band home concert, 7:30 p.m., Christ Chapel

For a complete listing of events, visit  
[www.nwciowa.edu/calendar](http://www.nwciowa.edu/calendar)



# Así es su Vida

## (A Way of Life)

by Amy Scheer



Spanish instructor Piet Koene, the 2004 Iowa Professor of the Year, is described by students as challenging and caring, thorough and patient.

With sleeves cuffed at the elbow, jeans crisp, Piet Koene moves two long tables to the center of a classroom in Ramaker Library. Students arrive, laughing and chatting in Spanish; one scatters a handful of bite-sized Snickers onto the table as she settles into a spot in the now inti-

▼  
*Koene's parents sent their shy son to Honduras for a year. He returned to Canada a changed man.*  
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mate seating arrangement. Oral Spanish Interpretation class begins, and only Spanish is spoken.

After an hour, Koene draws me in, the reporter in the back of the room. "Talk about anything, but begin slowly, and slowly increase your speed," he says. With

Piet Koene began as a Spanish professor at Northwestern five years ago, when a faculty member fell ill mid-year.

Nine semesters later, he was named recipient of the 2003 Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award. This fall, he received another, more prestigious award when he was chosen as Iowa's Professor of the Year for 2004 by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Administered by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the awards program honors four national winners and one from each state, recognizing their excellence in teaching and positive influence on students. On Nov. 18 Koene attended celebratory events in Washington, D.C., including an evening reception on Capitol Hill.

"This award speaks volumes about Northwestern," says Koene. "I excel as a professor, and in many ways as an individual, because of Northwestern, what Northwestern invests in its faculty."

headsets on, students work in pairs to interpret to each other as I tell them about my kids. A common mistake is caught by some—forgetting to translate “four years old” into the correct order in Spanish: “He has four years.”

After several rounds, Koene sits next to me and interprets as I speak, this time about my work in theatre. The students know vocabulary for the three fields the course covers—court, clinic and church—so a discussion ensues about how to communicate the terminology of unfamiliar fields.

“My roommate says I have the weirdest homework,” junior Jackie Carlson tells me after class. Arguably, it’s some of the most difficult as well. Exercises vary from simple shadowing of English (repeating spoken English after a slight delay) to dual tasking (shadowing while doing something else, such as writing numbers 1-100, or copying sections from a phone book).

“It’s about training your ear, training your brain,” Carlson says, and she has proof that Koene’s methods work. When Koene interprets at the Sioux County Courthouse, or for Amistad Cristiana, a local Spanish-speaking church, the students are often there to observe his skills.

“In the court system, the challenge for an interpreter is to convey all the little nuances of the original language, because what you are interpreting will either set somebody free or convict



Every week, Koene, his wife, Rosa, and their sons, Johannes (15) and Piet-Albert (10), share a meal with the four residents of Northwestern’s Spanish House.

somebody,” Koene says. At church, “you’re interpreting what God is saying through the minister, and now through you. Mentally, that’s uppermost in my mind.”

▼  
*“That is what I would like to see as much as possible: the Hispanics and the students learning from each other. It is not the idea of going and helping somebody; slowly a friendship is built, a two-way street. By learning Spanish, there is so much you can learn from other cultures.”*  
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To his students who are struggling, Koene likes to point out he was just a few years younger than their present age when he began his study of Spanish. Koene’s parents, immigrants from the Netherlands living in Canada, devised a plan to send their shy, introverted son to Honduras, where their daughter was a missionary. He finished grade 12 via correspondence and returned to Canada a changed man.

“After that one year of being in Honduras, I learned to be comfortable with strangers; everything I was uncomfortable with in English, I learned to become comfortable with in Spanish. My personality changed while in Honduras, but in Spanish.”

Koene met his future wife, Rosa, during that time,

and they married six years later. They lived in Canada for 10 years, then moved back to Honduras in 1997, where Koene worked as a dairy farmer. In Orange City since 2000, Koene, Rosa and their two sons live on a large acreage, where they entertain mostly Hispanic friends and speak only Spanish in their home.

Koene recognizes the irony of being a Dutch Canadian living in a Dutch Midwestern town while spending most of his time with Hispanics. Yet he points to the similarities between his background and that of Sioux County’s Hispanic immigrants, and an emphasis shared between the Hispanic and Dutch cultures: a strong focus on family and people.

Students take their cue from Koene and seek out

relationships with native Spanish speakers. In the Spanish House, which Koene advises, students who live together and speak Spanish most of their waking hours host regular events for

Hispanics in the area.

"Through babysitting, through ESL tutoring, I see that my students know different Hispanics than I know," says Koene. "That is what I would like to see as much as possible: the

Hispanics and the students learning from each other. It is not the idea of going and helping somebody; slowly a friendship is built, a two-way street. By learning Spanish, there is so much you can learn from other cultures,

from other peoples.

"Language is not something for the classroom," Koene says. "Language has to be a way of life."

*"He doesn't just talk about the importance of knowing a language in order to love our neighbor better; he creates opportunities for us to actually do it. He focuses special attention on the difficulties of Hispanics locally, in the U.S. in general, and in Latin America. You can't come away from his classes without having to struggle with issues of social justice and our responsibility as Christians."*

Jessica Mueller '04, San José, Costa Rica



Koene and some Spanish students enjoy a light-hearted moment with the Rev. Arturo Gomez, pastor of Amistad Cristiana, and Gomez' wife, Luz.

## Students say ...

"What makes Piet a great professor is that he cares about his students' lives. So when you're in his class, you want to do your best. That's how it is when you know someone's rooting for your success."

Mandy Gordon, junior Spanish and psychology major, Jenison, Mich.

"He uses his experiences to teach us beyond what any book can. He is always thinking of different ways of learning and opportunities for us to work with Hispanics in the community. He does so much more than just teach Spanish; he gets us involved and helps us to realize our potential to

serve God by using the gifts he has given us."

Tanya Zwald, junior Spanish major, Hammond, Wis.

"His teaching is thorough, understandable and enjoyable, and his helpfulness in and out of the classroom is impressive. In all of his classes, his love for God

is evident as he helps students see the connections between learning a language and loving the people who speak it."

Melissa Ingham, senior Spanish major, Grand Rapids, Mich.



# Clash of the Classes

*Students open school year with weeklong competition*

by Ariel Emery '05



Brandon Miller does his best synchronized swimming impression.



Tony Rodriguez gives his all in the tug-of-war.



Andrea Collier competes for the sophomores in the trike race.

Kyle Blankers spent the first Friday night of his freshman year with 100 strangers and 1,000 gallons of slime.

The strangers were his new classmates. The slime was what they needed to carry—in cereal bowls and faster than the upperclassmen—from a 10-foot-wide vat to a smaller bucket half a block away.

"We really came together as a class," says Blankers. "We did some chants, some war cries, put on our red bandanas and got fired up. It was a crazy-good time, and we dominated!"

The slime fight was the first event in the Clash of

the Classes, a week of wacky competitions staged by Northwestern's Student Activities Council. After taking first place in events like

waterless synchronized swimming, human checkers, a pine box derby and a watermelon throw, the senior class pulled together to win the competition, as well as bragging rights for the year and a six-foot-tall red trophy.

After Friday's slime fight, Saturday featured "Crazy Olympics" challenges like a tricycle race, tug-of-war, relay race and the synchronized "swimming." Monday night was for traditional games such as Tetris and Mario Cart, as well as versions of shuffleboard and checkers that used students as game pieces.

An "Iron Chef" three-course cook-off took place on Tuesday. On Wednesday, the classes competed to have the highest attendance at Raider sporting events, and on Thursday, they struggled to throw watermelons the farthest and drop the best-protected egg.

▼  
*"We really came together as a class."*  
▲

"One of my favorite memories was seeing the junior class annihilate the other classes in the tricycle race. It was a lot of fun," junior Molly Tonne says.

Student Activities Director Lori Couch says her organization plans to make Clash of the Classes an annual Northwestern tradition.

# REUNITE UNDER

## Homecoming 2004

Oct. 1-3



Nearly 100 runners braved the crisp Saturday morning weather to compete in the Raider Road Race.



Lynne (Lenderink '76) Hubers lines up a putt at the best ball golf tournament.



First Lady Di Murphy tries out her lacrosse skills at Morning on the Green.



Northwestern students mingled with children and earned money for student clubs by providing games and activities at Saturday's Morning on the Green.



# THE BIG TOP



George Bonnema '64 looks at Beacon clippings at the class of 1964 memorabilia table.



Members of the class of 1979 visit at their reunion dinner.

## Alumni honor three

Northwestern honored three distinguished alumni during the college's Homecoming festivities.

Kevin Brassler '85 received the Distinguished



Professional Achievement  
Kevin Brassler '85

Professional Achievement Award. A science teacher at South O'Brien High School in Paullina, Iowa, since 1987, Brassler has won a number of teaching awards, including Outstanding Biology Teacher of Iowa in 2000. Last March, he traveled to the White House to receive the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching from the National Science Foundation.

The Rev. Harry Tysen '70, chaplain at Salina (Kan.)



Service to Humankind  
Rev. Harry Tysen '70

Regional Health Center since 1980, received the Distinguished Service to

Humankind Award. He pastored a church in Woodstock, N.Y., for six years before becoming a hospital chaplain. In 1999, the Kansas Association of Chaplains recognized Tysen as their Chaplain of the Year.

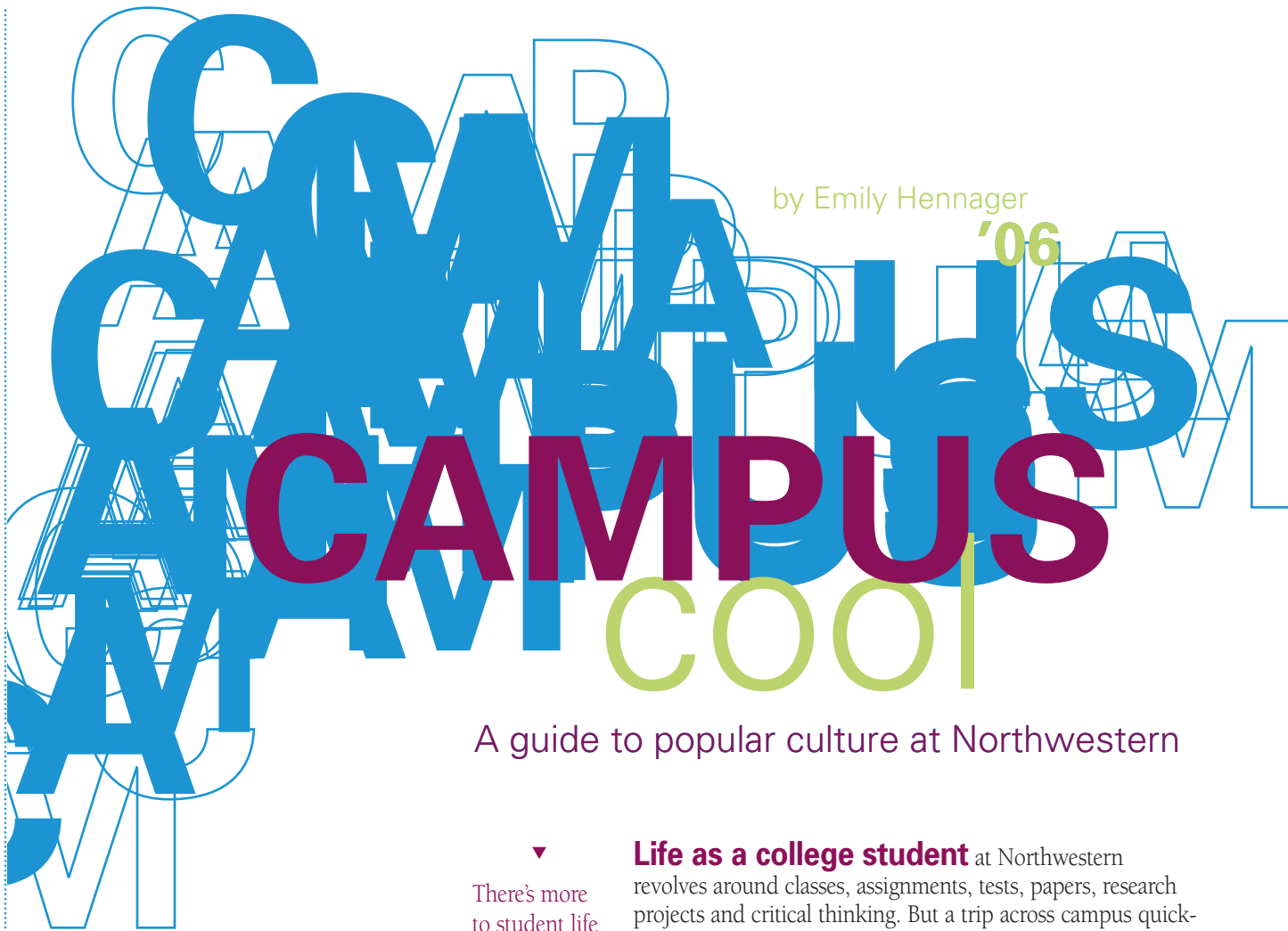
Dr. Lyle Vander Werff '54, professor emeritus of religion, received the Distinguished



Service to Northwestern  
Dr. Lyle Vander Werff '54

Service to Northwestern Award. A former pastor and missionary to Kuwait, Vander Werff taught in Northwestern's religion department from 1967 to 1999 and served for many years as director of international programs. The 1985 recipient of the Northwestern Teaching Excellence Award, he was presented an honorary doctorate by Keiwa College of Japan in 1996.





by Emily Hennager

'06

# CAMPUS

## COOL

A guide to popular culture at Northwestern

▼  
There's more to student life than just studying, so we thought we'd explore what's hot and what's not at NWC.  
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**Life as a college student** at Northwestern revolves around classes, assignments, tests, papers, research projects and critical thinking. But a trip across campus quickly reveals there's more to student life than just studying, so we thought we'd explore what's hot and what's not at NWC. Random interviews, campus observations and unscientific studies have led us to this: the *Classic's* first-ever guide to campus culture.

On the technology side, cell phones have hit campus in a big way this year, bringing controversy with them. While numerous students admit to owning a cell phone, not everyone likes the idea of carrying them around all the time.

"I've noticed a drastic increase in cell phones from my freshman year to now. Everyday I see someone on a cell phone on their way to class, in the caf (cafeteria), or at a game," says Katie Hanson '06. "Why do you need a cell phone in the caf?"

From the number of phones sitting on food trays, there are evidently plenty of reasons for bringing one to meals.

"It's a way of life. I take it in my bookbag, but I put it on silent," says Krista Blankespoor '08. "That's just how people get ahold of me."

Besides cell phones, today's technology-savvy student body has other options when it comes to communicating. Telephones are left on the hook as online instant messaging—text messages sent directly from one computer to another—makes it easier to connect with friends back home *and* friends who live down the hall.

"It's a good way of quickly getting ahold of people. I'll just send them a message that says, 'Hey, let's meet for dinner at five,'" says Nicole Koenecke '05. "It could be to someone across campus or someone in my building. It's just easier than finding phone numbers."

Many of the messages that fly back and forth from computers on campus are regarding plans for the evening or weekend. But what do students decide to do with the free time they're so busy discussing?

"Since there's not a lot to go do, we're more spontaneous," says Titus Landegent '07, reminiscing about a fall campout on the campus green when he and some friends slept in a tent and made s'mores over a grill.

Anytime the weather is pleasant, small packs of students roam the green playing disk golf, basically a game of golf played with a Frisbee. Ultimate Frisbee also is played outside, but games can easily be moved inside to the RSC. For many students, a pickup game of Ultimate Frisbee is a weekly

event, no matter what time of year.

In the evenings, groups of students gather in lounges to play card games like Mafia and Nertz or board games such as Cranium and Catch Phrase. Sometimes students get creative and put a new twist on an old game, like "Extreme Candyland."

"We made new cards and changed some of the rules," says Beth Lampen '08. "It was a good improvement."

Both men and women put their creativity to other uses by knitting hats, mittens and other apparel.

"I knit whenever I get the chance, like while I'm watching movies. I can make a hat in two hours. Matching hats and scarves are snazzy," says Becky Johnson '07.

*continued on page 24*

▼  
"I knit whenever I get the chance, like while I'm watching movies. I can make a hat in two hours. Matching hats and scarves are snazzy."  
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## Matching hats and scarves

# Snazzy



Becky Johnson models her hand-made scarf and hat.



Elsie Ellendorf, left, shows Kiera Fredericksen and Eugene Huck how to crochet at an informal Yarn Club gathering.

# Dodgeball

## Connecting to the child within

Northwestern students are bringing back playground games with full force—and the competition is fierce. The first-ever dodgeball tournament was held as part of this year's Homecoming week festivities.

"Dodgeball brought the whole campus together," says Joel Watters '07. "There were so many people there."



With 37 teams between the men's and women's divisions, nearly 400 students participated. Each team played three games, with the winning teams advancing to the playoffs and then the finals.

"I hadn't played dodgeball since elementary school. It was a way to go back to childhood," says Dan Johnston '05, a member of the men's championship team. "The competition was friendly, yet intense. People took it very seriously."

The grand prize was two free pizzas for each winning team, but for many, the competition wasn't just about the prize.

"My favorite part was the playoffs," says Kyle Osborne '06, who helped organize the tournament. "People wanted to get to the finals so they played hard."

Regardless of the competition, students said the highlight was getting to be a kid again.

"We made a team just to have fun," says Christine Geertsema '07. "Even though we pretty much got annihilated, it was still a good time."

## Piercings

"I got my nose pierced this fall. It wasn't a defiance thing; I just thought it was cute. My parents were fine with it." Ginny Wegter '08

## Facial hair

While most Northwestern males are usually clean-shaven, facial hair is not an uncommon sight on campus. "It's laziness more than anything. Guys just don't bother to shave," says Dusty Meyn '07.

## Chilling out

Frozen lattes from the snack bar are this year's popular treat. At \$2.05 each, they come in flavors like almond, amaretto, vanilla and raspberry, and have been selling almost as fast as the blenders can whip them up.

The most popular flavor? Caramel.





## In and out

## In

Lucky Charms cereal  
DVD  
Electric toothbrushes  
Digital cameras  
Vintage-washed jeans  
Cell phones  
Researching online  
Shopping at Target

## Out

Corn Flakes  
VHS  
Morning breath  
Disposable cameras  
Stone-washed jeans  
Cell phones  
Going to the library  
Shopping at Wal-Mart



## Wristbands

## Following Lance's lead

Northwestern men and women are sporting accessories for a good cause. The yellow rubber wristbands with the motto "Live Strong" sell for \$1, and all proceeds go to the Lance Armstrong Foundation to benefit cancer survivors. "I saw the ad in *Sports Illustrated* and thought it was a good cause," says Brett Brown '07.

"Plus, I like the way it looks," adds Mike Vermeer '07.



## Tattoos

"Tattoos? Not a lot of people on campus have them. I think they're cool, though."  
Peter Eko-Acquah '07

## Messenger bags

## Carrying stuff in style

Messenger bags slung across one shoulder are a popular alternative to traditional backpacks for both men and women. "They're unique bags in fun fabrics," says Jodi Folkerts '07, who owns two bags made by Lora Goll '05. "The size is nice. It can carry books to class, but I can also use it as a purse."

## Water bottles

## Water, water everywhere

Whether on their way to class, working out or studying in the library, well-hydrated students tote their plastic Nalgene water bottles everywhere. Available in a rainbow of colors, the bookstore sells them with "Northwestern College" printed on the side.

"It's a high-quality product. They look good, can't break and are readily available," says Jon Tjeerdsma '06.



## Cars

"As far as cars go, 1990 is really the year that's in now," says David Bray '07. Abigail Nedrud '07 agrees that students aren't picky when it comes to transportation: "It's not so much what kind of car you have; it's more, 'Does it work?'"

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While fashion gurus are squeezing their feet into pointy-toed shoes, Northwestern students seem to shun anything that's not casual, easily washable—and above all—comfortable.

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## Easily washable comfortable

*continued from page 21*

When it comes to clothing and fashion at NWC, don't expect to see any styles straight off the runway.

"What's in according to society and what's in at Northwestern are two different things," says Andrea Collier '07. "People are tired of being part of a huge label."

While fashion gurus are squeezing their feet into pointy-toed shoes, Northwestern students seem to shun anything that's not casual, easily washable—and above all—comfortable. Jeans, T-shirts and flip-flops dominate the apparel landscape during warmer months, while cold weather brings out "hoodies" (hooded sweatshirts) and tennis shoes.

It's not that fashion trends don't come to campus, it's just that they usually arrive months after the rest of the world has caught on.

"Styles I feel comfortable wearing in my hometown I have to wait a few years to wear here," says Emilee Severson '05.

Fashion phenomena such as UGGs, the suede boots with furry lining, have already swept the coasts, but as of yet, they haven't become a big thing on campus.

One popular trend this year is the color brown. Clothing, bags, even hair colors are showing up in a range of shades between tan and dark chocolate. Even the bookstore is selling several styles of Northwestern apparel in brown tones.

Though brand names like Hollister, Abercrombie & Fitch, American Eagle and Aeropostale are sported across campus, new clothes don't always equal cool clothes.

"What's in is wearing things that look like they've been worn for 20 years," says David Bray '07. "It either comes from thrift stores or really expensive places that just make stuff look old."

Many students find places like Goodwill a goldmine for unique clothes at prices that leave enough money in their pockets for next semester's tuition.

Students say popularity is based on self-confidence—which is something you can't buy—more than on a clothing label.

As Tyler Parson '07 says, "The less cool you try to look, the cooler you are."



Tyler Parson, Rembrandt Zwaagstra and Titus Landegent display the good buys they've found at Goodwill.

## Of course

## CD-based class teaches through stories



Carly Miller says having a textbook on her computer screen instead of in print took some getting used to, but she was drawn into the presentation of management principles through its story-based approach.

**Class:**

Principles of Management

**Instructor:**

Dr. Michael Avery, assistant professor of business and economics

When it came time for Carly Miller to study for her Principles of Management class, she didn't open a textbook. Instead, she slipped a CD into her computer and began reading about the lives and careers of real Christian business people. As she followed their stories, she was introduced to concepts such as business objectives, financial performance, market research and forecasting.

"At first, I didn't like it, because I'm a big fan of highlighting things," Miller

says, "but then I began to appreciate it. The ongoing story made what we were learning seem a lot more real and applicable, and I really liked how it integrated faith and their Christian values."

That integration was the main reason her professor, Dr. Michael Avery, decided to use the new interactive curriculum in his class.

"It's the first management text I found that really did a good job of bringing our Christian faith into business generally, and specifically into management procedures, processes and practices," he says.

Along with the text, short assignments and worksheets, the CD-ROM includes links to professional tools and Web sites. One feature

allows students to try out what they are learning: A simulator duplicates the real world in which there's a constantly shifting interplay of input, choices, implementation and feedback. Students run businesses that compete against, partner with and respond to other businesses—with the changes they make immediately affecting the business environment.

The curriculum also has students decide how much of their grade will be determined by various aspects of class, such as assignments, class participation and tests. Avery supplements that aspect of the course by having students evaluate their fellow team members as well as themselves, a practice he's used in business but never before in a class.

Avery is excited about the new curriculum. The story-based text, he says,

shows the real application of what students are learning. "And when you add the faith component, it's really the closest thing to faith and learning I've ever seen."

Avery's appreciation for the course material is shared by students, who come better prepared and are more interactive during class.

"I read every chapter, and I can't say I've done that for my other classes," Miller says. "When a chapter would end, I would want to keep reading. It felt like you were experiencing what they were experiencing, but you were learning at the same time."

**Reading list:**

There is no textbook. Instead, students in the class work with an interactive CD-ROM, "Management for a New Generation: An Experiential Learning Approach for Christian Executives." The curriculum was written by John Cragin, a veteran business management instructor and international business consultant, and published by Zondervan.

**Assignments:**

In addition to reading a digital text, students complete daily worksheets, quick assignments, or summaries of the content of business-related Web sites. They also work as teams on a simulator that allows them to test their abilities in a real-time, competitive environment.

▼  
*"It's the first management text I found that really did a good job of bringing our Christian faith into business generally, and specifically into management procedures, processes and practices."*  
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# The Path From Education to Politics

by Sherrie Barber Willson '98

Education and politics might seem like two vastly different career paths, but according to Peggy (Leeds '82) Bilsten, they have more in common than you might think.

A physical education major, Bilsten previously taught elementary school and high school health and fitness. Now the vice mayor for the city of Phoenix, Ariz., she says her experience in education has been invaluable for her current work.

"As a teacher, you lead your students to new experiences and support them in their efforts to grow. The same is true for my community work," Bilsten says. "I cannot fix all the problems in the community, but I can give people the resources to learn and improve the quality of life. Then it's up to them to make the changes they are seeking."

## Taking action

Although it may seem like a natural transition now, Bilsten says she never imagined she would become a politician. A native of Homestead, Fla., she met her husband, Tom '83, at Northwestern. When they moved to Phoenix in 1986 for his work, she was a stay-at-home mom to their two children, Tom Jr. and Jennifer, and a school and PTA volunteer.

But when four of her neighbors had their doors literally broken down and their homes robbed within a single week, Bilsten decided she had to take action. She helped organize a block watch group and held a meeting with local police officers. To her surprise, the district's City Council representative cared enough to attend the meeting.

A few months later, Bilsten learned that a piece of land adjacent to her subdivision was being rezoned for a major shopping center. The district boundaries had been redrawn, and a new councilperson was now representing Bilsten's neighborhood. Bilsten had experienced the good side of politics; now she saw the bad.

"The new councilperson refused to meet with the neighbors," she says. "He truly cared more about developers than neighbors."

When he decided to resign from the council to run for mayor, Bilsten's former councilperson encouraged her to run



A member of the Phoenix City Council for 10 years, Peggy Bilsten also serves as vice mayor.

as his replacement. "I knew in my heart that people should be heard," Bilsten says. "Not every elected official cares to listen, but I knew I would listen and do my best to serve everyone."

## Serving the community

Bilsten was elected to the Phoenix City Council in October 1994 and has been re-elected twice: in 1999 and again in 2004. The City Council elected her vice mayor (a

one-year term) in 1997 and again this year.

Unsurprisingly for a former stay-at-home mom, day-care provider and educator, Bilsten is passionate about family issues, especially domestic violence prevention and the well-being of children. Bilsten helped to establish the Family Advocacy Center for victims of domestic violence and now chairs the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. She also serves on the boards of several children and family advocacy organizations.

"Domestic violence is the No. 1 call for service for our police officers, and the most dangerous," Bilsten says. "I also read recently that the leading cause of death for women ages 19 to 41 is homicide by a husband or partner. It broke my heart to

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*"As a teacher, I was very limited as to what I could do, but as an elected official, I am able to bring attention and money to our domestic violence shelters."*

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learn of a young woman who lost her life in front of her children because her husband found out she had been calling shelters, none of which had any openings.

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Maybe her only college thoughts today are about those cool cheerleading outfits—or the excitement of Morning on the Green. But give her 15 years, and she'll be thinking about her college education. And you'll be wondering how to pay for it. Start working on that now, through the Independent 529 Plan, and lock in tomorrow's tuition at less than today's price.

Visit [www.independent529plan.org](http://www.independent529plan.org) or call 888-718-7878 to learn more about this prepaid tuition program, sponsored by Northwestern and over 200 private colleges.

*Future Northwestern cheerleader: Maria De Jong, daughter of Kelly and Sheila (Born '94) De Jong.*



"As a teacher, I was very limited as to what I could do, but as an elected official, I am able to bring attention and money to our domestic violence shelters."

Bilsten's other top issue is transportation, which she sees as vital to the health of the community. She chairs the council's transportation subcommittee and has worked hard to improve the city bus system, the Dial-a-Ride program for disabled and senior citizens, and mass transit.

"If you have a poor transit system, you are not able to attract and retain new and/or big businesses," she says. "Without employment opportunities, your community begins to suffer in all areas."

Bilsten credits her time at Northwestern and in Orange City for teaching her the value of community. "[Iowa taught me] the values of a small town, one where you didn't have to lock your doors or worry about your children," she said. "People were friendly; they knew their neighbors. Now I encourage people to get out of their enclosed backyards and get to know their neighbors. Once people begin getting to know each other, they begin helping each other."

### First things first

For all of her accomplishments, Bilsten says her proudest achievements are her marriage and children. She and Tom, who works for Swans Foods, have been

married for over 20 years. "He is my best friend and soul mate," she says.

Their son recently married and lives in Phoenix, while their daughter is a college sophomore who wants to become a missionary. Bilsten's mother also moved to Phoenix recently after being widowed. "It is truly a blessing having her in my life on a daily basis," says Bilsten.

Bilsten is serving her last term on the City Council; when it ends in 2007, she's not sure what she will do. "But I am sure if God wants me to continue serving the public, I will," she says.

# For the Sake of the Sport

*Magazine publisher Bryan Van Kley promotes amateur wrestling*

by Duane Beeson

In amateur wrestling, some names are legendary: Dan Gable, Rulon Gardner, Cael Sanderson.

Bryan Van Kley '98 hasn't won an Olympic gold medal, coached beyond the middle school level or even worn a singlet since his freshman year at Northwestern, but his name

attracts great attention among wrestling enthusiasts. As the owner and publisher of *Wrestling International Newsmagazine* (W.I.N.), Van Kley has become a prominent figure in the sport.

"I've been in the wrestling world for 35 years, and Bryan has made as big an impact as anyone in a short amount of time," says Mike Chapman, executive

director of the International Wrestling Institute and Museum. "W.I.N. is very highly respected throughout the wrestling world, from wrestlers like Tom Brands to business people.

"Bryan has been able to maneuver in that world very well because he's personable and cares about what he's doing. Everybody likes him and trusts him," says

Chapman, who founded W.I.N. in 1993.

Van Kley sees his job as much more than covering wrestling at the high school, college and Olympic levels. It's his goal to help wrestling grow.

"Our mission is to promote the sport," says Van Kley. "I feel wrestling hasn't grown because it hasn't been marketed properly."

Van Kley and his staff of two other full-time employees and more than a dozen columnists, freelance writers and photographers from around the country seek to cover the sport in a professional and timely manner—wanting to be known as the *Sports Illustrated* of wrestling. Prior to W.I.N.'s



As publisher of *Wrestling International Newsmagazine*, Bryan Van Kley provides administrative direction, sells ads, edits copy, writes a column and helps with page layout. The magazine's headquarters are in the International Wrestling Institute and Museum in Newton, Iowa.



emergence on the national scene, says Van Kley, “Fans were used to getting their events covered scantily. Our sport wasn’t treating its news coverage the way it needed to.”

Van Kley and his editor attend the top dozen amateur wrestling events each year. The Northwestern alumnus covered the Olympics in Greece this summer—after spending his honeymoon with wife Rachel (Bogaard ’00) in Sydney, Australia, at the 2000 Olympic Games.

Van Kley, who was a win away from qualifying for the state wrestling tournament his senior year at Rock Valley (Iowa) High School, says wrestling is unique. “The thing I came to love and hate about wrestling was how incredibly difficult it is physically, mentally and emotionally. Wrestling is an individual sport. There’s no one to look over your shoulder and blame if something goes wrong.

“The positive attributes that come from wrestling and how closely it parallels what it takes to be successful in life make it extremely exciting.”

Van Kley, who credits NWC football coaches Larry Korver and Orv Otten for helping him to develop commitment, discipline and a strong work ethic, has attacked his career with the passion of an Olympic grappler.

“His vision impressed me,” says Chapman, *W.I.N.*’s founder.

“He looked at what the product was and what it could be, and he wasn’t afraid to work hard and invest capital to improve it. He has a very professional grasp of what he’s doing and where he wants to go. *W.I.N.* was good when I sold it, but it’s terrific now.”

## Reversal

Van Kley, a business administration major, first thought he’d go into investment banking, but he couldn’t see himself working in a career unrelated to sports. At Northwestern, he played football four years, competed in baseball two seasons and was a member of the wrestling and golf teams as a freshman. So he added a minor in journalism and planned on a career as a sports journalist.

“It’s amazing to see how the Lord was preparing me for what I’m doing today,” says Van Kley. “Carl [Vandermeulen, professor of English and communication studies] always said it’s a great blessing to make your avocation your vocation, and I’ve been blessed to do that. My passion has become my career.”

Van Kley says his *W.I.N.* highlights include watching Rulon Gardner’s surprise victory in the Sydney Olympics and seeing Iowa State’s Cael Sanderson win four national titles and go undefeated. Even bigger than those moments, though, is “being able to establish both friendships and working relationships with the most prominent people in the sport.

“It’s great to have a career that’s structured around a sport that’s as pure as wrestling. It’s incredible that I get paid to go to every big wrestling event in the country!”

## Balance is the key

Balance is one of the main skills in wrestling. Van Kley has found it also is crucial in managing a small business—and a family.

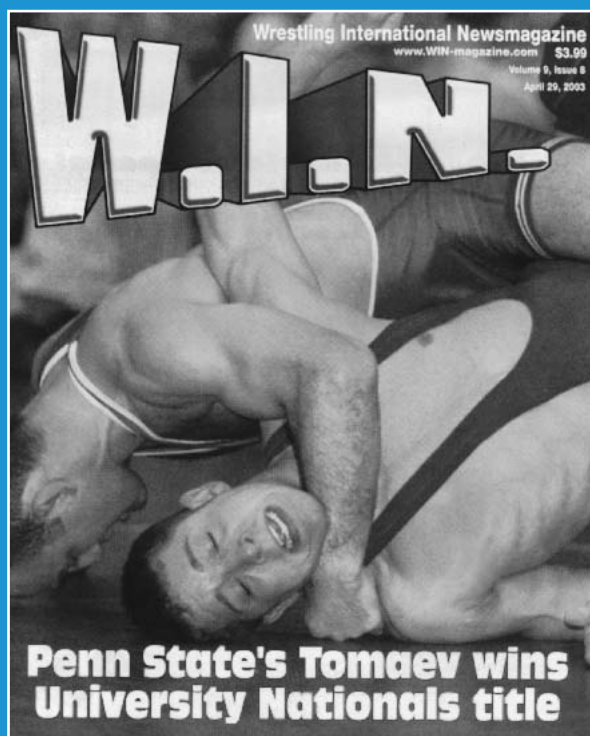
When he bought *W.I.N. Magazine* in 1998, he did half the writing, all the ad sales and layout, the renewal notices—even answered the phone.

“I came in three out of every five days thinking, ‘How soon can we sell this?’ If it wasn’t for my faith in the Lord, I don’t know how I would have gotten through that first year,” says Van Kley. “The turning point was when I realized I couldn’t do it all myself—and I was holding the business back by trying to.”

Van Kley knew he needed a bigger staff. And for that to happen, *W.I.N.* had to be more profitable. He pursued more advertising with diligence—and was able to hire two full-time employees.

As he looks to the future, Van Kley would like to see the magazine’s circulation—which has increased from 2,000 to 5,000—quadruple to 20,000. But he tempers his vision with a broader perspective.

“My underlying goal is to not detrimentally affect the balance between work and family that I believe is so important.”



“Advertisers love him,” says *W.I.N.* Magazine Editor Mike Finn, about Van Kley. “He’s selling more than space; he sells the sport.”

## Fallsports

### Football

- Finished with a 7-3 record, ranked 18th nationally in the NAIA.
- Placed fourth in the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC).
- Led the nation in scoring defense (holding opponents to 8.1 points per game), pass defense and pass defense efficiency.
- Allowed only one touchdown in their first five games. Four of their wins were shutouts.
- Linebacker David Jacobs earned national player of the week honors for his efforts in the 27-0 victory over Nebraska Wesleyan, in which he was credited with six solo and nine assist tackles, including two tackles for loss and one sack.
- Defensive back Jeff De Haan and linebacker Austin Janssen earned first team all-conference honors.

### Men's Cross Country

- Placed ninth in the GPAC meet and eighth at regionals.

### Women's Cross Country

- Won four meets, placed third in the GPAC and was runner-up at regionals.
- Mary Kummerfeld earned GPAC runner of the week honors, was named to the all-conference team and qualified for the national meet.



Midfielder Brett Wieking goes after the ball in Northwestern's 4-0 win over Concordia. The Red Raiders tied for the conference title and compiled the best record in school history, 16-5.

### Men's Golf

- Won the 12-team Red Raider Invitational.
- Aaron Aberson was named co-GPAC golfer of the week after tying for first at the Sioux Falls Invitational.

### Women's Golf

- Placed sixth at the conference meet.
- Melissa Hisel earned all-conference honors.

### Men's Soccer

- Recorded the best record in school history, 16-5.
- Tied for the GPAC title with Morningside and

Hastings, compiling a 9-2 league record.

- Dan De Witt was named GPAC player of the year. Mike TenClay and Andrew Tinklenberg joined him on the all-conference team.
- De Witt was twice named conference offensive player of the week, and TenClay was a defensive player of the week.

### Women's Soccer

- Had their best record since 2000, going 8-10.
- Placed 10th in the GPAC with a 4-7 mark.
- Sara Kernes set school career records for points (97) and goals (38). She

earned first team all-conference honors.

- Kernes and Liz Reynen were GPAC offensive and defensive players of the week, respectively.

### Volleyball

- Compiled a 21-10 record.
- Placed fourth in the conference with a 12-4 mark.
- Carli Blom earned first team all-conference honors.
- Stacy Friedrichsen was the regional setter of the week once and earned the GPAC honor three weeks.

## Alumni corner



Karen Woudstra  
'79, Director of  
Alumni and Parent  
Relations

This fall, my husband, Earl, who teaches in Northwestern's kinesiology department and coaches the women's basketball team, spoke in chapel. He encouraged us to "press on" (which also is his team's theme this year, from Philippians 3:14) and be faithful in the little things God gives us to do or calls us to be each day.

Earl talked about people God had placed in his life who encouraged him through the way they lived their lives: faithful every day in the big and the small. Some of those encouragers included professors who made an impact while he was a student at Northwestern in the 1970s.

Probably we all can think of professors who taught us well both in and out of the classroom. Maybe it was theatre professor Theora England or Coach Paul Muyskens. Ron Juffer is mentioned often by alumni who remember the personal interest he took and still takes in the lives of countless students, and Virg Muilenburg remains beloved for his teaching and pizza baking. There are so many more I could name. God uses people like our professors to challenge our minds and hearts—to show by example what it means to walk the talk.

This fall one of Northwestern's foreign language professors, Piet Koene, who won the college's Teaching Excellence Award in 2003, was selected as the 2004 Iowa Professor of the Year. Piet is being acknowledged for his excellent, passionate teaching of Spanish language and culture—teaching that extends beyond our campus to the Sioux County Courthouse and his Hispanic church and neighbors.

Those who know Piet have seen his commitment to his faith and family. A lover of Latin America, Piet is being used by God right here in Iowa, at Northwestern, at this time, to be faithful to his calling. Piet is one of those people who "presses on" each day. In so doing, he is an encouragement to our students as they watch him live what he teaches about embracing other cultures in our increasingly multicultural community.

We all have cherish people who have impacted our lives. Who has been this kind of teacher-by-example in your life? Don't forget to thank God for them and pray for them. May we, too, press on with God's help and seek to be faithful every day, in every way—because we never know how God will use our lives to encourage and impact another.

## Deaths

**Alberta (Kooiker '36) Vermeer**, 89, died Oct. 10 at a hospice in Pella, Iowa. She graduated from Hope College and taught in Kent City, Mich., before marrying **the Rev. Henry Vermeer '33**. They served churches in Falmouth, Holland and Grand Rapids, Mich.; Chicago; Sheboygan, Wis.; Denver; and Pella and Hopers, Iowa. She was active in the World Home Bible League, Pella Women's Club, Fortnightly, Crossroads Prison Ministry, RCA Women's Ministries and the Reformed Church Board of Pensions. She is survived by her husband, two children and a brother.

**Marjorie (Hopers '40) Weeks**, 84, died Sept. 3 at her home in Vermillion, S.D. After her time at Northwestern, she studied at Grinnell College and the University of South Dakota. She was an artist, singer, radio host, educator, art promoter and founder of the Tiyoypaye Network for the Extended Family of South Dakota. Survivors include her husband, Martin, and two daughters.

**Benjamin Huisken '64**, age 63, died of cancer Sept. 27 at a Sioux Falls hospital. He taught at Rock Valley (Iowa) Christian School for 37 years before retiring in 2001. A member of Trinity Christian Reformed Church, where he had served as an elder, he preached in area churches as a lay pastor and volunteered in prison ministry. He is survived by his wife, Trudy; four children, including **Jill Jacobsma '93**; his mother; five sisters; and three brothers.

**Charles Brickwedel**, an English professor at Northwestern from 1960 to 1972, died Oct. 23 at his home in Brookings, S.D., at the age of 89. A graduate of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles, he served as pastor for churches in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and South Dakota before earning a master's degree in English at South Dakota State University. After teaching at NWC, he pastored

churches in Milford, Iowa, and Tucson, Ariz. After retiring, he taught English at Judson Baptist College in Oregon. His survivors include three children.

**Dr. Roy Wilbee**, chairman of Northwestern's education department from 1967 to 1970 and academic dean from 1970 to 1973, died Nov. 10, 2003. He earned a bachelor's degree in science and a master's in Christian education from Wheaton College and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Michigan. After leaving Northwestern, he served as director of media at Bethel College in Minnesota until 1985. Survivors include his wife, Betty, and four children.

**Lynne (Krommendyk '74) Te Velde**, 54, died Oct. 8 at Orange City Health System. She married Albert Te Velde in 1985; they made their home in Maurice. She worked as a home health aid and at Hope Haven RTC in Orange City. She was a member of First Reformed Church in Maurice. She is survived by three daughters; two stepchildren; her parents, **Lorraine (DeJong '48)** and **Leonard Krommendyk '48**; three brothers, including **Dan '82** and **Paul '87**; and a sister.

**The Rev. Charles Focht '78** died of cancer Aug. 29 at his home in Carlisle, Pa., at the age of 65. He attended Elohim Bible Institute and Tabernacle Baptist College and served as a pastor of churches in Tylersport and Meridian, Pa. In 1975, while working as a tree surgeon to supplement his income, he fell and broke his back. A paraplegic, he completed his bachelor's degree at NWC and became a competitor in wheelchair table tennis and archery. He made numerous national teams and competed in the 1992 Paralympics in Barcelona, Spain. He served on the Pennsylvania Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and was chairman of the American Wheelchair Archers. Among his



survivors are his wife, Margie; five children; his mother; three brothers; and two sisters.

**Marilyn (Lupkes '97) Jansma**, 29, died Aug. 21 in Downers Grove, Ill., from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. She served as director of community groups at Prairie Ridge Church in Ankeny, Iowa, and also worked as a family therapist at Four Oaks in Des Moines. She is survived by her husband, **Kevin '99**; son, Treyton; her parents; four brothers; and two sisters.

## '52

**Dr. Frank Calsbeek** was designated as distinguished professor of health education emeritus at Texas State University-San Marcos in May. He taught and served as health education division director for the university from 1974 through 1995 and was the College of Education's assistant dean from 1981 to 1985. He served as president of the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance in 1991. He now lives in Grand Rapids, Mich.

## '66

**Christina McGrinson** retired from the Kalamazoo (Mich.) Public Schools in June after almost 20 years of service. She has taught in Panama (her native country), Brazil and Guatemala, and served as a translator in Mexico and New York City. She has traveled extensively in the United States, Canada, South America and Europe. Last summer, she and her sister explored the east-ern shores of Australia.

## '70

**Joe Petrill** is in his 33rd year of teaching physical education and coaching football in Somerville, N.J. His oldest son, Jordan, is his offensive coordinator for the freshman program. Youngest son Blake threw 11 touchdowns for 787 yards in the varsity's first four games this season.

**Dr. Gary Smit** retired in June from the Lombard (Ill.) School District, where he was superintendent since 1994. His 34-year career in public education included 25 years as a superintendent in three districts. He now is on the faculty of the Josephson Institute of Ethics in Los Angeles. In this role, he presents workshops across the country on ethics in the workplace and character education for schools.

## '71

**Morris Harms**, Rockford, Ill., retired from his position as an adoption specialist with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. He now runs a handyman business. His wife, **Angie (Schreiner '72)**, serves as an addictions counselor for teens through Rosecrance Health Network.

## '74

After living for 30 years in the Atlanta metro area, **Charlotte Baldwin** has relocated to West Des Moines, Iowa.

## '76

**Deborah (Van Egdorn) Hage-meier** is serving as president of the South Dakota Library Association. She is technical services librarian at Augustana College's Mikkelsen Library in Sioux Falls.

## '81

**Bryant Tjeerdsma** is assistant vice president of the information technology department for Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Iowa. His wife, **Tamara (Breaw '84)**, teaches fifth grade in the West Des Moines School District.

## '82

**Dale Landegent** and his wife, **Ruth Shicks '83**, co-directed their favorite musical, *Pippin*, this fall at Sioux Center High School. They had their first date during the run of that show at Northwestern in 1979. This year, their cast included daughter Bethany.



Members of the class of 1964 gathering at Homecoming included: (front row, left to right) Harold Dykstra, Carol (Friese '62) Dykstra, Ruth (Knoll) Stientjes, Lee Wiersma; (second row) George Bonnema, Sharon Bonnema, Leona Wyngarden and Roger Wyngarden.

## '86

**Barry Whitsell** has been named chief executive of Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon. He was assistant administrator at Northwest Iowa Health Center in Sheldon for the past six years and served as a vice president at Sheldon's Security State Bank for 16 years.

## '87

**Steve Van Ginkel**, North Sioux City, S.D., serves as vice president of business development for EZ Drop, a business that helps consumers list items for sale on eBay. He previously worked for nine years as an executive at Gateway.

## '88

**Dave Uit de Flesch** earned a specialty certificate in alcohol and drug addictions treatment from Western Michigan University last December. He continues to work as a therapist at Wedgwood Christian Services in Grand Rapids.

## '89

After teaching for several years at Holland Christian Schools, **Kim (Looman) Cook** has been a stay-at-home mom for three years. Her husband, Tim, is a computer programmer for Herman Miller Inc. They have two sons, Trevor (7) and Wesley (1), and live in Holland, Mich.

**Dave Wensink** is a self-employed heating and cooling contractor in Sheboygan Falls, Wis. His wife, **Becky (Hofer)**, is a stay-at-home mom.

## '90

**Michele (Dahl) Bultena** lives in Webster City, Iowa, with her husband, Kevin, and their children, Cassidy (6) and Tyler (4). She works part time as a physical therapist in Clarion.

## '91

**Kellee (Korver) Conant** is in her last year of studies at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa.

## '92

**Heather James** does demos at the Sam's Club in Ames, Iowa.

## '94

**Stephanie (Fogelberg) Olson** is a stay-at-home mom in Chippewa Falls, Wis. Her husband, Corey, is an electrical engineer.

**Kevin Zylstra**, Richfield, Minn., has been doing financial planning in the Twin Cities for the past 10 years. He is a senior financial planner at New England Financial in Minnetonka. He is active in a Sunday evening ministry/mission, the Upper Room, at Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina.

'95

**Chad Noble** works as an actuarial analyst at Capital Card Services in Sioux Falls.

'96

**Kevin Kroeze** works as a police officer in Visalia, Calif.

**Jason Lief** earned a master's degree in theology from Wheaton College Graduate School last December. He continues to teach and coach at Pella Christian High School while also lay preaching at churches in the area. His wife, **Tammy (De Hoogh)**, is a stay-at-home mom.

**Caroline Rogers** serves as the magical gatherings resort operations manager at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. She has been selected to be on the task force team for Hong Kong Disneyland in 2005. She also operates her own Internet network marketing business. A member of the lay leadership team at St. Luke's Methodist Church, she volunteers her time to assist charities such as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

**Michelle (Meendering) Tomkins** teaches second and third grades at Oviatt Elementary in Norwalk, Iowa. Her husband, **Trevor**, is serving a tour of duty in Iraq with the 2168th National Guard unit based in Sheldon.

'97

**Jeff Beekhuizen** is a second-year resident at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita Family Residency Program.

**Kristi Bootsma** received an M.B.A. from the University of Nebraska-Omaha in May. She now serves as manager of finance at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

**Laura Hibma** serves as a missionary at the International Christian School of Lima in Peru.

**Candy (Volkers) Kiesz** is starting a day care in Sioux Falls. Her husband, **Erik**, works for CitiCard.

**Delia (Pini) Perry** and her husband, **Chris**, have moved to Sylvania, Ohio. **Chris** finished his ear, nose and throat residency and has taken a full-time position with a group in the Toledo area.

**Deb Schleusener** is joining the staff of International Students Inc. and will work at the University of Washington in Seattle. She is raising support and hopes to be on staff in Washington by January. She previously worked for Navigators at their retreat center, Glen Eyrie, in Colorado Springs for several years.

Minnesota and Wisconsin area. His wife, **Cheryl (Jamieson '98)**, is a stay-at-home mom. The Kehns live in Hammond, Wis.

**Stacey (Harman) Schmidt** teaches history at Sioux Falls Christian High School.

**Amber (Soldan) Widstrom** is a certified physician's assistant at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. She works in the pulmonary and sleep medicine section.

'99

**Jake Killinger** is working as the youth pastor at Hope Evangelical



*Celebrating their 25th reunion were these members of the class of 1979: (front row, left to right) Orv Otten, Ev Otten, Pam Voss, Mark Voss, Susan (Elman) Risius, Steve Risius; second row: Arden Keune, Jodi (Pennings '78) Kleinjan, Willis Kleinjan, Connie Smith, John Smith, Carol (Vander Ploeg) Law, Greg Law; third row: Earl Woudstra '78, Karen (De Boer) Woudstra, Diane Westenberg, Wayne Westenberg and Sharon (Schoon) Carroll.*

'98

**Kenda Hallman** is development manager in the office of community partnerships at Columbia College Chicago. She previously was manager of prospect tracking at Northwestern University. She also has been acting in Chicago since 1998.

**Brad Kehn** is the pastor/president of Youth Alive Inc., a ministry that provides youth camps, conferences and leadership training retreats for churches and leaders from the

Free Church in Springfield, Ill. His wife, **Becky (Vugteveen)**, volunteers on the youth staff and manages a Hallmark store.

Thanks to Oprah and Pontiac, **Susan (Menning) Nelson** owns a new car. Susan, her boss and another co-worker at Wheaton College were attending the taping of Oprah's season premiere in September when all 276 audience members were given new Pontiac G6s. A few days later, a photograph of Susan, other car winners and Oprah was published in *People* magazine.

**Josh Pyle**, Cedar Falls, Iowa, continues to work as a loss prevention and safety manager for Younkers. His wife, **Amy**, is employed by the Dunkerton Community School District.

**Stephanie Timmerman** is education program manager for the Alaska Native Heritage Center in Anchorage.

**The Rev. Aaron Vis** graduated from Western Theological Seminary with an M.Div. degree in May and was ordained in June. He now pastors Covenant Community Church in Hudsonville, Mich.

'00

**Karinda (Trumble) de Boom** lives in Sioux Falls and teaches art at Vermillion Middle School. She earned a master's degree in education at Augustana College.

**Anne (Neerhof) and Austin Hellbusch** are living in Sioux City. Austin teaches sixth grade science and serves as head coach of the boys' varsity basketball team at Dakota Valley High School in North Sioux City. Anne is in her first year of residency in family medicine at the Siouxland Medical Education Foundation.

**Colette Johnson** earned an M.F.A. degree in playwriting from New School University in New York City. She remains in the Big Apple, where she works for Kaplan Test Prep and is pursuing a career in writing. One of her scripts is being made into a short film through the New School University's KZ Films and Guerrilla Video Collaboration Studio.

**Nichole South**, Grand Mound, Iowa, serves as the director of marketing for an assisted living facility that specializes in serving those who have Alzheimer's disease. She previously was the director of social services at a nursing center.

**Dr. Kelly Van Haften** graduated with honors from the Illinois



Alumni from the class of 1994 enjoying their class reunion were: (front row, left to right) Susan Porter-Green, Tami Van Wyk, Paula (Viet) Bindert, Shane Bindert, Heidi (Hensley) Tschetter, Brian Tschetter '93, Troy Vermeer; second row: Sherri (De Zeeuw) Langton, Benjamin Langton, Carmen (Symens) Huizenga, Tonya Van Peursem, Teresa (Mesman) Sampson, Brent Sampson, Leah (Sikkema '93) Dykstra, Kurt Dykstra; third row: Cindy (De Boer) Yoder, Scott Yoder, Amy (Vande Wall '93) Wiersema, Kent Wiersema, Lori (Voskuil) Scholtens, Rick Scholtens '92, Lynn (Kamstra) Kavanaugh, Will Kavanaugh; fourth row: Tamara K. Johnson, Jerry Rens, Lori (Vander Pol '95) Rens, Russ Herman, Darrin Kimpson, Pamela (Brinks '97) Kimpson, Jana (Kluis) Estes, Jody (Hemphill) Rossell, Dan Rossell '93; fifth row: Ronan Roghair, Mark Ohling, Scott Eppinga, Abe Scheaffer '93, Amy (Verdoorn) Scheaffer, Monica (Liwendahl) Starr and Mark Starr '92.

College of Optometry in May. Her clinical rotations included sites in Iowa, Illinois, Colorado and West Virginia. Last winter, she participated in a mission trip to western Kenya, where her group offered eye clinics in rural communities and distributed eyeglasses donated by the Lion's Club. She now lives in Ankeny and practices with Eye Care of Iowa in Des Moines.

**Eric Vermeer** completed a master's degree in architecture at Iowa State University in the spring. He's now pursuing a master's in structural engineering. His wife, Marissa, teaches kindergarten and coaches varsity girls' soccer in the Ballard Community School District in Huxley, Iowa.

## '01

**Julie (Frantz) Clarke** lives in Austin, Texas, where she is studying to become a physical therapist assistant.

**Kathy (Aalbers) Dee** teaches at Newman Catholic Schools in Mason City. Her husband, Ryan, is finishing his history degree at the University of Iowa.

**Daniel Elliott** is serving as the youth director at Central Presbyterian Church in Eugene, Ore. He spent a year working as an intern assistant minister in Groomsport, Northern Ireland.

**Kiley (Fleming) Mars** has joined the staff of Des Moines University as a human resources administrator. She previously worked in human resources at Arvest Bank in Bentonville, Ark.

**Leah (Elder) Mellegaard** directs the Wesleyan Fund in the Dakota Wesleyan University development office. Her husband, **Corey '02**, works in human resources at American Foods Group in Mitchell, S.D.

**Ryan Petersen** anticipates graduating with a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School next spring.

**Travis Schueller** teaches eighth grade science and health at Cherokee, Iowa, Middle School. He also is junior varsity and assistant varsity boys' basketball coach.

**Abby Thompson** has moved from Beatrice, Neb., to Rapid City, S.D. She teaches seventh grade language arts in the Douglas School District in Box Elder. She expects to complete a master's degree in curriculum and instruction in the summer of 2005.

## '02

As part of his training at the ImprovOlympic in Chicago, **Chris Anderson** performed in a student show this fall.

**Amanda Baker-Vande Brake** received a master's degree from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in June. While in New York, she worked as a costume/wardrobe intern for an upcoming film, *Romance & Cigarettes*, which was written and directed by John Turturro and produced by Joel and Ethan Coen. Amanda and her husband, Jason, have moved to Southern California, where he is pursuing an M.F.A. in acting at the University of California, Irvine.

## Alumni: What's new with you?

Let us know so we can tell your friends and classmates. Send to: Office of Public Relations, Northwestern College, 101 7th St. SW, Orange City, IA 51041. Or e-mail to [beeson@nwcioa.edu](mailto:beeson@nwcioa.edu); fax number is 712-707-7370. Deadline for the spring Classic is Jan. 13.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current Employer(s) \_\_\_\_\_



**Kelly Bauder** worked as a staff accountant in Denver for two years. She now is pursuing an international M.B.A. degree at the Universiteit Nyenrode in Breukelen, the Netherlands.

**Allison Berger**, an analytical chemist for Pace Analytical, does contract work for 3M. She lives in Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

**Justin Halbersma** is in his first year of seminary at Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C.

**Sarah (Gosselink) Hille** and her husband, David, live in Scotts Valley, Calif., where they are naturalists in the Mission Springs Outdoor Education Program.

**Carmen Hofmeyer** works in human resources at Compassion International in Colorado Springs. She recently led a mission trip to China.

**Ji-Hyun Grace Kim** teaches group and private piano at Michigan State University's Community Music School.

**Amanda Magnuson** is pursuing a master's degree in English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She expects to graduate in May.

**Amanda (Pearson) Moerman** works at Sioux Golf and Country Club in Alton, Iowa. Her husband, Lee, is employed at SmithCo Manufacturing in Le Mars. They have two sons, Michael (5) and Jonathan (2). Amanda's parents are **Sandy (Richter '76)** and **Carvell Pearson '78**.

**Kaisha (Wasilensky) Netten**, Alton, Iowa, has been employed as a social worker with the Iowa Department of Human Services for two years.

**Cory Rasmussen** lives in Nashville, Tenn., where he is a sales representative for the Pella Corporation.

**Michael Weeldreyer** and his wife, **Rachel (Van Regenmorter '03)**, now live in Maitland, Fla., where he teaches middle school math at Orangewood Christian School.

### '03

**Ryan Olson** teaches K-12 physical education in Lamoni, Iowa. He also serves as assistant boys' basketball coach and head coach for boys' track and baseball. His wife, **Leah (Griner '02)**, is pursuing a master's degree in school social work at the University of Iowa.

**Sarah Taylor** is in her second year at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass., where she is pursuing a master's degree in world missions and evangelism.

**Tara Van Peurse** works as a project coordinator at Maritz Research in Oak Brook, Ill. She lives in Naperville.

**William Wolfswinkel** is the principal at Inwood (Iowa) Christian School.

### '04

**Grant Baker**, Tucson, Ariz., designs newsletters for Fraternity Management Group, which helps raise money for fraternities.

**Heidi Friesen** moved to Japan in August and will spend the next two years teaching English to middle school and high school girls at Baiko Gakuin, one of Northwestern's sister schools in Shimonoseki. **Junko Nagao '70** and **Yoriko Dohi '03** met her when she arrived and helped her begin making the transition to a new culture and home.

**Sarah Hanson** teaches special education at Spring Hill Elementary in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Mark Milbrodt** and his wife, **Abby (Michael)**, live in Springdale, Ark., where he is an assistant product manager for Tyson Foods and she is a trainee at Arvest Bank.

**Matt Ploeger** is serving as worship/ministry team leader in the chaplain's office at Central College in Pella, Iowa.

**Joel Vander Wal** is enrolled at Western Theological Seminary. He also works as a youth director at Community Reformed Church in Zeeland, Mich.

### New Arrivals

**Carla (Den Herder '89)** and **Jim Sandbulte '86**, twins, Micah Will and Grace Anna, join Levi (8) and Caleb (5).

**Becky (Hofer '89)** and **Dave Wensink '89**, son, Joshua Lee, joins Zach (12), Sam (9) and Emily (6).

**Tom and Kathy (Aberson '90) Pressey**, daughter, Alexis Kathleen, joins Sydney (5) and Connor (3).

**Kevin and Kellee (Korver '91) Conant**, daughter, Lauren Nicole.



1999 alumni gathering for their reunion at Homecoming were: (front row, left to right) Kristin (Meyer) Kroesche, Nathan Kroesche, Kristi TenClay, Brenda (Van Manen) Krueger, Brian Krueger '96, Dan Ebbens, Natalie (Puck '98) Ebbens, Jill (Schreurs) Schillerberg; second row: Andrew Manz, Stacie (Brosamle '00) Englin, Tony Englin, Darrin De Vries, Joel Vos, Christie (Rydell) Vos, Carla Peterson, Marianne (Koolhaas '00) Petty, Ben Petty; third row: Wes Treadway, Anjanette (Johnson) Treadway, Adam Schnell, Lorie (Coy '98) Schnell, Carson Brackney, Sherri (Fleshman) Brackney, Erin McFadden, Betsy (Russell) McFadden, Jennifer (Van Wyk) Van Zante; fourth row: Tineke (Raak '00) Hanke, Donovan Hanke, Sarah Willenborg, Ryan Ten Pas, Jennifer (Christiansen) Dolphin, Randy Dolphin, Dawn (Van Meeteren) De Young, Matt De Young '01, Martha (Hansen) Copeland, Greg Copeland '00; fifth row: Joel Boersma, Angela (Roerdink '02) Boersma, Leah Huizenga, Candace (Hup) Boerema, Adam Boerema, Becky (Vermeer) Hiemstra, Lindsay (Olson) Aalbers, Natasha King, Jenn (Noppert) Whittington, Barb Burlingame; sixth row: Travis Popken, Rachel (De Groot '01) Popken, Tim Rogers, Matt Ortman, Brady Aalbers and Laura Netten.

## Mini profile

# Petersen is definitely going places

by Justin Hill  
Hampton Chronicle

For years, Wade Petersen '87 has been known to don a Napoleon costume or TP his own classroom and let students smash raw eggs in his face during Mardi Gras.

Now, after 15 years of teaching French at Hampton-Dumont High School, he has the Iowa High School Foreign Language Teacher of the Year award to show for it. He received the award at the Iowa World Language Association Conference in Des Moines in October.

"My philosophy is to work hard and play hard," says Petersen. "I expect a lot from my students, but I like to have fun. Any way I can make it more fun and creative, the better."

The educator says he enjoys the various areas he gets to teach—from history to culture—that fall under the umbrella of his French program. And he appreciates that his subject is ripe with possibilities for making learning exciting.

"There are so many activities you can do," Petersen says, sitting in his classroom where pictures of

past class trips to France adorn what he calls the French Corner.

Most of the members of the Iowa World Language Association have known about Petersen's teaching style from his award-winning presentations at the state conference over the past several years.

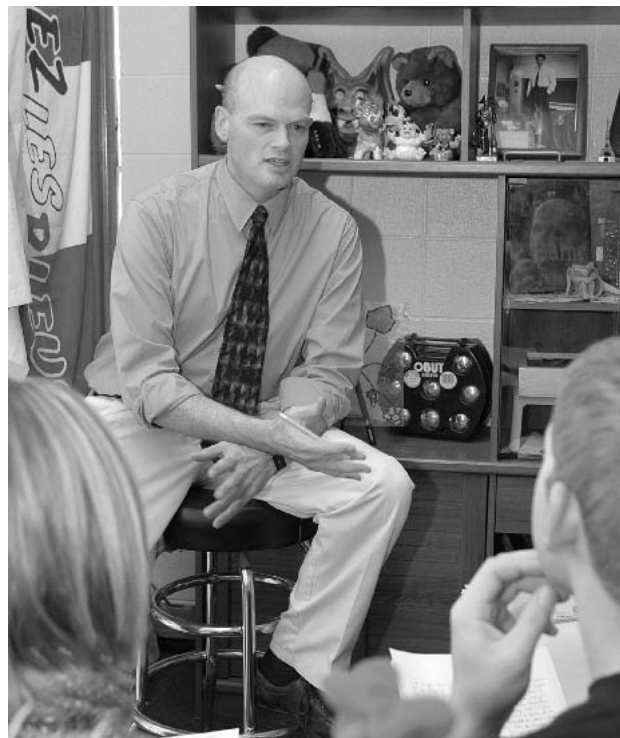
They also know him as a published author.

"Since 1998, it's been my second career," says Petersen, who earned a master's degree from Drake University.

Petersen's works—including activity books and creative assessments, venerable how-to guides for French, Spanish and German teachers—are put out by the Teacher's Discovery publishing company, which calls him a teacher with a "creative and practical mind." He currently has 22 products, include poster sets and games, on national and international markets.

But it all comes back to his teaching, part of which has included taking students to France six times in the past decade.

"You get to see them grow up so much over there. That's the best part," says



Wade Petersen offers advice to students who are preparing to write a mystery for an advanced French class at Hampton-Dumont High School.

Petersen, who spent the spring semester of his junior year at NWC studying in Paris. "And it's not a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Most people who have gone over have done it again."

Students come back with treasured memories, like climbing the Eiffel Tower or standing in front of the Arc de Triomphe for the first time.

And Petersen shares those treasured memories, like the one of the student who, while standing in the Louvre, had tears in her eyes, saying it was too beautiful to look.

"Just thinking about that, even now my heart starts to pound," Petersen says, almost out of breath. "Those are the moments I live for."

Doug and Amy (Kindwall '91) Kueper, son, Connor Douglas, joins Kyle (7) and Madison (4).  
Ryan and Cindy (Pletke '92) Blackard, son, Garrett Charles, joins Ian (3).

Greg and Michelle (Boeve '92) Van Wyhe, twins, Rex Arthur and Regan Marie, join Riley.  
Jody and Renia (Park '93) Snyder, son, Joshua Ray.  
Tonya (McGee '93) and Dan Venema

'96, son, Cole Paul, joins Cara and Brooke.  
Corey and Stephanie (Fogelberg '94) Olson, daughter, Bethany Paige, joins Adrienne (3).  
Lynnette (Webb '94) and Adam

Rasmussen '94, daughter, Lesia Jolynn, joins Annika (6) and Kirsten (2).  
Jamie and Josh Bird '95, son, Kayden Nazareth.

## Planned giving notes



Cornie Wassink '73  
Director of  
Planned Giving

## Your will won't work well when ...

### It's out-of-date

How old is your will? Have you reviewed it in the last three years? If not, chances are it could use some attention. A number of personal factors can affect your will, including changes in income, employment, family size or marital status. External factors such as new federal or state laws also can require the revision of your will. Have any of the following occurred in the last few years?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Move to another state              | <input type="checkbox"/> More grandchildren           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New business venture               | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in giving interests   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children less dependent            | <input type="checkbox"/> Job promotion                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Death or serious illness in family | <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase of life insurance   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marriage or divorce                | <input type="checkbox"/> New out-of-state property    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birth of child                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase of home             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executor or trustee can't serve    | <input type="checkbox"/> More property in joint names |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Desire to change guardian          | <input type="checkbox"/> Major change in finances     |

### It's legally invalid

Your will can contain all the information you think you want and still not be worth the paper it's written on. This is more likely to be true if your will is old, or if you tried to cut corners by using generic forms. A will can be invalid if it is not signed or witnessed properly.

There's no substitute for having a competent attorney involved. In the short run, it may cost you a bit more, but it certainly will provide greater peace of mind and ensure a smooth execution of your wishes for your survivors.

### It conflicts with other plans

Your will should be coordinated with your other estate transfer documents. For example, insurance proceeds and brokerage accounts pass outside the will to the named beneficiaries. Pension funds also are distributed outside the will. A will that truly works well takes all of these other assets into consideration.

### It fails to fulfill your desires

Your will should accomplish exactly what you want. Do you want your children to receive their inheritance all at once, or at various intervals? Do you want your charitable gifts to be used for unrestricted purposes, or do you want to earmark the funds to meet specific needs? Do you want to give your beneficiaries a percentage of your estate, or a set amount?

Perhaps you didn't know all the options when you signed your will. Later you discovered other ways to make your bequests. Your will may work as a legal document but fail to express your true desires.

Is it time to redo your will? If so, make an appointment with your attorney as soon as possible. You should be satisfied and confident about your estate plan.

I am available to visit with you about any of this. We can review bequest options and discuss other giving possibilities. Contact me at 712-707-7109 or [cwassink@nwcioa.edu](mailto:cwassink@nwcioa.edu).

Jennifer and Chad Noble '95, son, Andrew, joins Olana (5) and Sierra (3).

Tammy (De Hoogh '96) and Jason Lief '96, son, Christian David, joins Naomi (2).

Jesse and Danyale (Temple '96) Tamminga, daughter, Merry Basilea, joins Hans (3).

Michelle (Meendering '96) and Trevor Tomkins '96, son, Kaden Trevor, joins Kyan (2).

Karen and Jason Carlton '97, son, Patrick Wyatt.

Dean and Susan (Hagge '97) Fuerst, daughter, Sarah Renae.

Jerry and Robin (Chalstrom '97) Hunt, son, Ezra Bryan, joins

Shariah (2).

Suzanne and Matt Jahn '97, daughter, Lynnette Suzanne.

Jason and Julie (Clapp '97) Van Beek, son, Levi John, joins Kristin.



## Prayercorner



Dr. Don Wacome  
Professor of  
Philosophy

### A prayer for students

O God, gracious and most wise, consider these students, your servants, your sons and daughters, chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world, called here now to do your work.

Protect them, encourage them, sustain and uphold them for the sake of your son, our Savior. Jesus, light of the world, may these students see through your eyes. Jesus, word of God spoken as flesh, may your words be in their mouths.

Bless them with the gift of a joyful and living faith: not too rigid to bend without breaking, but a full, supple, resilient trust in Jesus, the truth around whom all truths dance. Create in them a robust faith, a doorway that welcomes the world God so loves, not a wall against it. Give them the mind of Christ, who did not hold back, but went forth, and gave himself.

Out of time, worn down, way late, bereft of sleep, past hope: Even then may they hear your call to love the truth, come what may, their vocation the thirst to know.

Trouble them when they are too sure, too quick to think they're in the right. But restore those whose faith is weak. Comfort the lost, the sad, the lonely; may the truth you are—great in mercy, humble in love—seek them out.

But make seekers of the comfortable. Give them the courage to go the hard way. Bring them beyond themselves to what's strange and different, where you are waiting, O Lord of all, ever new.

Endow them with a holy curiosity, an honesty that will not settle for what's pat, shallow, safe and false. Make them the hardest critics of themselves. Make them best at playing fair, best at hearing those they know are wrong.

Teach them to love the questions as well as the answers. Guide them to the seams where things don't quite fit, to the questions no one has thought to ask or pushed aside, the problems still unsolved, to the places where you, God of wonder, have more to teach them.

Be with them when they are confused. Even within their most secret doubts, you are with them, their secure anchor. Beyond whatever darkness they endure, you are the light. Past all loss, you their true love.

Challenge them, bother them, poke and prod them, surprise and shock them, O gentle Lord: Do what it takes to make faith grow. Shape and craft their minds to trust in you. Give them boldness in their thought, open their hearts, free their imaginations. Let them never forget they have nothing to fear; they are forever held by you, forever blessed.

Amen.

*This prayer was written for a chapel service last spring.*

Marcy (Vos '98) and Ryan Agre '98, daughter, Emri Marnae, joins Bryant (3).  
Paul and Heather (Vermaat '98) Beekhuizen, daughter, Norah Amelie.  
Cheryl (Jamieson '98) and Brad Kehn '98, son, Hunter Michael, joins Autumn (3).  
Dennis and Stacey (Harman '98) Schmidt, son, Jonathan Edward,

joins Lane (1).  
Mike and Laura (Schoolen '98) VanDerLinden, daughter, Rachel Marie, joins Brittany (1).  
Jodi (Brooks '98) and Mark Vander Zwaag '93, son, Brenden James, joins Makayla (5).  
Jess and Amber (Soldan '98) Widstrom, daughter, Hannah Jean.  
Brooke (Blevins '99) and Todd

Hartbecke '99, son, Kalen Austin, joins Tyler (3).  
Mary (Dieck '99) and Jason Vanden Bosch '97, son, Nathan Thomas.  
Nikki (Tjossem '00) and Carl Zylstra '98, son, Bryan Austin, joins Brooke (2).  
Abby (Schuiteman '01) and Stan De Zeeuw '01, son, Keegan Lyle.  
Kara (Koopmans '01) and Jeremy Eisenga '00, son, Owen Justin,

joins Ethan (2).  
Michelle (Fynaardt '02) and Nick De Haan '03, son, Micah James.  
Amy (Wacker '02) and Kyle Hutchinson '01, daughter, Kate Caroline.  
Kristin (Schuiling '02) and Shaun Olson '99, daughter, Makenna Jo.  
Leah (Griner '02) and Ryan Olson '03, son, Brayden Ryle.  
Beth and William Wolfswinkel '03, daughter, Adelle Rose.

### Marriages

Candy Volkers '97 and Erik Kiesz, Sioux Falls  
Angela Smits '98 and Insoo Kim, Oak Park, Ill.  
Daniel Geels '99 and Amy Mooney, Gladbrook, Iowa  
Josh Pyle '99 and Amy Shippy, Cedar Falls, Iowa  
Aaron Benson '00 and Erica Dabelow, West Fargo, N.D.  
Michelle Kluitenberg '00 and Ken Frieling, Hamilton, Mich.  
Eric Vermeer '00 and Marissa Mowen, Ames, Iowa  
Kathy Aalbers '01 and Ryan Dee, Clear Lake, Iowa.  
Leah Elder '01 and Corey Mellegaard '02, Mitchell, S.D.  
Julie Frantz '01 and Joshua Clarke, Austin, Texas  
Liz Huizenga '01 and Peter Brokaar, Almere, the Netherlands  
Joe Sherry '01 and Sandy Martin, Bloomington, Minn.  
Sarah Gosselink '02 and David Hille, Scotts Valley, Calif.  
Amanda Pearson '02 and Lee Moerman, Orange City.  
Cory Rasmussen '02 and Carissa Baker, Nashville, Tenn.  
Kaisha Wasilensky '02 and Dustin Netten, Alton, Iowa  
Caleb Ingersoll '03 and Diane Weckle '05, Alton, Iowa  
Abby Michael '04 and Mark Milbrodt '04, Springdale, Ark.  
Joe Schueller '05 and Brook Goeken, Paullina, Iowa

*The couples reside in the city listed.*

# Investing in lives beyond your own



by Maggie Biesanz '04

*The following was delivered last spring as a speech by then-senior Maggie Biesanz to a small group who love NWC and support the college with prayers and gifts. Many more than just those at that celebratory dinner do the same, impacting students in ways beyond what they know.*

Although I recognize a few, many of you are unfamiliar. I don't think we've met, have we? Still, there is a famil-

ilarity in this room. Where do I know you from?

Maybe it was freshman year. We pulled into campus, our car loaded; we'd been driving since 5 a.m. At the stoplight, a guy wearing a question mark sandwich board waved at us. My mom rolled down the window: "Where do we park for Stegenga Hall?" Mr. Question scratched his chin, raised an eyebrow, then: "I don't know ma'am, but praise the Lord!" The light changed, and we moved on. We were still bewildered, but smiling now, and I knew I was home. I think you might have been there then.

That next semester, I was exhausted, my brain a mess of Bronte and Bonaparte—reading in my dreams. One Wednesday I slumped into chapel. I don't remember what the speaker said that day, but at the end we all stood, the sun streaming in, and sang the Doxology. And something changed. I felt bonded to everyone there, united in worship—the only truly important thing. I let go of my weariness and lifted my heart and voice like everyone around me. I heard your voices in that place.

My sophomore year I took speech—*dreaded* speech. Standing in front of people makes me shake—sweat. I can imagine hurdling the podium as I make a break for the exit. But, as it was required, I joined a class of 15 and soon realized that each one of them feared public speaking too. Professor Jeff Barker said, "Every person is an expert at something. Tell us about that." Daily he reminded us of God's glory, God's grace and God's light in each of us. At semester's end, when I took the podium, yes, I was nervous; yes, I was shaky; but also, I was transformed. Feeling the encouragement of my classmates, my weak voice grew stronger, I attempted to make a joke, I waved my arms in the air. You were in that audience,

smiling, laughing and clapping for me.

In the spring of my junior year, I studied in London. I interned at a publishing company, ate bagel sandwiches in Hyde Park, drank gallons of tea with milk, and sat in the green seats of the Parliament's House of Commons. In addition to friends from Britain, I made friends from Iran, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Portugal, Ghana and Hawaii. Conversations with them opened my eyes to a world that is not so big, not so far away. In their eyes I saw a world that needs God's love. Walking along the Thames River, we enjoyed just being alive. Wasn't that your face, reflected alongside ours in the river?

My senior year it rained buckets at the Dana cross country meet. The course included slippery hills and muddy valleys that sucked the shoes off my feet. But with Coach Dale Thompson cheering me on, I ran hard. Crossing the finish

line, I was a mess. People might have guessed NWC's school colors were red, white and mud, but I didn't notice, cheering each teammate to the finish. When everyone had come across the line, we gathered to thank God for the run. We won the meet that day, but that wasn't what mattered, huddled together, arms around each other's shoulders, one body. I think you were there, completing that circle.

True, you were not physically present in my college experiences the last four years, but you believe in this institution so much that you have plugged yourselves into it, supporting it with prayers and dollars, maintaining a relationship that spans years and geography. Without your friendship, there is no chapel, no speech professor, no study

trips to England, no cross country meet. There is no group of students, hanging around after class to talk with the professor about Shakespeare or Plato, no campus newspaper, no standing ovation for the musical, no residence hall Bible study.

Because of you, graduates leave NWC empowered, knowing that someone dared to believe in their God-given dreams. You believe in the mission and values of Northwestern enough to invest in lives beyond your own. Thank you.

*A Peale Scholar from Sleepy Eye, Minn., Biesanz received Faculty Honors at graduation last May. She is a reporter/photographer for the Hawarden Independent. She plans eventually to attend graduate school in creative writing and dreams of being a travel writer.*

▼  
*"I felt bonded to everyone there, united in worship—the only truly important thing. I let go of my weariness and lifted my heart and voice like everyone around me. I heard your voices in that place."*  
▲

Send your Classic thoughts to [beeson@nwciowa.edu](mailto:beeson@nwciowa.edu)

*Change Service Requested*

*"Our mission is focused on students. We provide the resources students need to be fully prepared servants of Christ in the world."*

**Bob Reynen '68**  
*Director of church relations*



## I am Northwestern

Northwestern is clear about what we're trying to accomplish. The marriage of faith and learning is exciting—and challenging to put into practice. Northwestern prepares students for more than just a job. That's been true in my own life. Since graduating from Northwestern, I've been able to do a number of things I never expected; what happened here many years ago was key. Now my job is to communicate who we are as an institution and foster relationships with churches. Your donation to the Northwestern Fund helps us support today's churches and train future church leaders.

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Contact Jennie Smith, director of the Northwestern Fund, to find out how you can help Northwestern's efforts to serve the church. Phone: 712-707-7110; e-mail: [smith@nwciowa.edu](mailto:smith@nwciowa.edu); [www.nwciowa.edu/giving](http://www.nwciowa.edu/giving)



## Who needs Ebay?

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### *Retreat for a week*

History professor Dr. Doug Carlson and his family have been spending summers on Washington's Lummi Island for years. Now you can experience Lummi life too! The Carlson Cabin offers easy access to the best beach on the island. Eat fresh salmon while you whale watch from the cabin's deck. Numerous attractions of the Pacific Northwest are just a ferry ride away.

The Carlson Cabin is just one of the vacation packages available at NWC's annual Gala Auction on Saturday, Feb. 12. Visit [www.nwciowa.edu/galauction](http://www.nwciowa.edu/galauction) after Jan. 10 to bid on the Lummi Island getaway and other trips, as well as over 350 other items. To receive regular updates about trips as they become available, e-mail [alumni@nwciowa.edu](mailto:alumni@nwciowa.edu) and ask to be on the trips e-mail list.